

3:



William John Macdonell.





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SEDGLEY PARK.

F. C. Husenbeth, delin.

# THE HISTORY

OF

# Sedgley Park

SCHOOL.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

BY

F. C. HUSENBETH, D.D.,

AN OLD PARKER.

"Tell us the former things what they were: and we will set our heart upon them."—ISAIAS XLI., 22.

LONDON:

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# DEDICATION.

To the Right Reverend

# JOHN,

# FIRST LORD BISHOP OF BEVERLEY,

Assistant at the Pontifical Throne, &c., &c

My DEAR LORD,

The HISTORY OF SEDGLEY PARK must be dedicated to a Parker. Could one more worthy of such dedication be found than yourself? It is the production of an old schoolfellow and humble friend of your Lordship. It was his happiness in the golden days of youth to tread with you the old Park "Bounds,"—to play with you,—to study with

you,—to pray with you. He followed in your path in after years to the ecclesiastical state; though certainly non passibus equis,—but at a very humble distance. But he has been always honoured and blessed by your kind and warm friendship; and the present opportunity is gladly embraced to dedicate this work to your Lordship, the oldest living prelate among Parkers, on this 54th anniversary of your own coming to Sedgley Park, by

My dear Lord,

Your devoted humble Friend and Schoolfellow,

F. C. HUSENBETH.

Cossey, February 2, 1856.

# PREFACE.

This History has been written at the earnest and repeated request of many friends and brother Parkers. The author needed no pressing to undertake it; for never, since he knew Sedgley Park,—now a long half century and more,—has he ceased to think of it with fond affection, amid other and distant scenes, and in all the varied circumstances of life:

" Neque, si male cesserat, usquam Decurrens alio; neque si bene."

But he hesitated, from the difficulty of the work; and now that he has in his own fashion accomplished it, he is sensible that it will require of the reader, and especially of a Parker, much indulgence.

The author has endeavoured to note the chief events and characters at the Park for almost a century; but how many must have escaped his knowledge! Every Parker has his own store of reminiscences; and it must happen that many will be disappointed at not finding all theirs recorded. The author has sought to make the book interesting, by the introduction of many little anecdotes, familiar events and features: but here he may be blamed for going too minutely into trifles and frivolities. attempted the History of a School; but perhaps it will be thought that he has said too little of studies and education. He foresaw these and other difficulties, and this made him long reluctant to undertake a work, which, however his heart might fondly cherish, his ability might fail duly to accomplish. But time kept passing, and he considered at last that it would be best to do what he could, before he himself should also pass away; and he now throws himself on the indulgence of his brother Parkers, for the many imperfections of the following pages. He has simply done what he could with materials drawn almost exclusively from his own notes and recollections; but he cannot hope that his memory has been always accurate. It was an occupation extremely pleasing and soothing to the writer; he felt regret when it was brought to a conclusion; and he could but involuntarily exclaim with the great poet of modern times:

<sup>&</sup>quot;But this is o'er—my pleasant task is done, Which ever playing round me came and smiled."

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Mr. Errington arrived May 27.

- P. 39.—Rev. Wm. Hartley died July 8, 1793.
- P. 146.—John Crewe died March 30, 1846.
  George Gibbons died November 6, 1840.
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- P. 147.—Mark Richardson died March 10, 1816.
- P. 149.—Wm. Davis died in 1820.
- P. 151.—Mrs. Mary Thorp died January 19, 1818.
- P. 152.—Ann Fletcher died February 28, 1812.
- P. 154.—Alice Southall died June 12, 1841.
- P. 155.—Between Mrs. Ward and Nanny Preston there was at least one nurse, whose name was Ann Peard, who died January 6, 1835.

  Mrs. (Maria) Ward died September 14, 1810.
- P. 161.—Wm. Lappage died April 1, 1810.

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## THE HISTORY OF

# SEDGLEY PARK SCHOOL.

#### CHAPTER FIRST.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BEFORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEDGLEY PARK—FATHER HARVEY'S SCHOOL—SCHOOLS IN LONDON—TWYFORD—SOME OTHERS—DAME ALICE'S SCHOOL AT LADY WELL.

"Events long past are barely known; they are not considered."

JOHNSON.

It would be a natural and desirable introduction to a History of the School at Sedgley Park, to give some account of such Catholic schools as existed in England, previously to its establishment. For this however, the materials are very scanty. It was a wonder how Catholics contrived, after the melancholy subversion of their religion in this country, to obtain any education at all. For they could neither learn nor teach, without exposure to severe penalties. The Catholic parent was liable to a fine of £10 a month if he had his children taught by a

Catholic, and the Catholic schoolmaster to pay £2 a day. And if parents sent their children to Catholic schools abroad, they must forfeit £100, and their children could possess no lands, nor goods, nor could they inherit legacies or sums of money. Catholics, however, did obtain Catholic education, in defiance of these inhuman laws, and in the face of formidable obstacles. Their colleges founded on the continent are well known, those of Douay, Rome, Valladolid, Seville, Madrid, St. Omer, Paris, and Lisbon.\* But little is known, and little can now be ascertained of any Catholic schools which existed in England, from the days of Elizabeth to the establishment of the school at Sedgley Park, a period of two centuries. The state of Catholics was one of political degradation and exclusion, and their constant exposure to persecution and penalties necessarily rendered their scholastic establishments small and secluded.

Strype, in his edition of Stow's Survey of London, speaks of schools being set up in 1687 at the Savoy, the masters of which were Jesuits. But they were open to Protestants, as well as to Catholics, and contained about four hundred boys, of whom about half were Protestants. These schools, however, were broken up soon

<sup>\*</sup> For particulars of all these, and other religious establishments of Catholics abroad, the reader may consult a work, edited for the Hon. Edwd. Petre, by the present writer: "Notices of the English Colleges and Convents established on the Continent." Norwich: Bacon and Co., 1849.

after the reign of James II. The next information respecting the establishment of Catholic schools appears in a curious old pamphlet, entitled: "The Present State of Popery in England" (1733). This is chiefly made up of a Letter from a Priest in London to a Cardinal at Rome, containing an account of the state of Catholic affairs in England. How far an account presented in so questionable a shape may be generally relied upon, is of little consequence to our present purpose. There is no reason to distrust what the Letter states of the schools then existing. The writer speaks of a missioner, whom he calls Father Harvey, having "set up a school for the benefit of Catholic "children, where he instructs them in all the "principles of our holy religion; and though "the laws are very severe against us on this "head, yet, for the reasons already mentioned, "he practises in this double capacity, without "any disturbance." \* The writer goes on to say that the success of this pious Father had induced several other missionaries to set up schools also, which had become so famous at the time when he wrote, that besides the children of Catholic gentry, rich merchants and tradesmen, the Catholic merchants of Maryland, Barbadoes, &c., sent their sons to England to be there educated. It is not very clear where the above school, first established by Father

<sup>\*</sup> The Present State of Popery in England, &c., p. 19.

Harvey, was situated, nor at what date it was begun. It is most probable, however, that it was opened in the short reign of James II., and was in, or near London. In a MS. account of the Common Fund of the Secular Clergy, the Rev. Gerard Saltmarsh speaks of Mr. Hide being placed over a school for boys at Hammersmith; which perhaps was this school established by Father Harvey. There was a Catholic school in Devonshire Street, Bloomsbury, to which Pope is recorded to have gone for a short time, kept by a Mr. Bromley, a convert in the reign of James II., who had been a curate at St. Giles'; and the Duke of Norfolk of that time was also a scholar there with Pope in 1700. The poet had previously been placed at another Catholic school at Twyford, two miles from Winchester. This seems to have been the most important academy possessed by Catholics at that period. The Letter already quoted represents it as containing upwards of a hundred scholars at the time when he wrote, 1733; and says it was "chiefly under the care "and direction of one Father Fleetwood." This Fleetwood left Twyford about the year 1732, and after living a short time at Paynsley, went to Liege, and became a Jesuit. Flourishing, however, as it seems to have been at that date. it survived but a short time afterwards. next master of Twyford School was the Rev. Philip Betts. He had been Mr. Fleetwood's

assistant, but does not seem to have conducted the establishment with the ability of his predecessor. Under him the school languished, and became charged with debt. In the early part of 1734, the house was mortgaged to Mr. Holman, of Warkworth, and a sum of £200 was borrowed from the Dean and Chapter of the English Clergy, to relieve the establishment from its difficulties. Some accounts represent Mr. Betts as the last master; others that he was succeeded by a Mr. Gildon, who died in 1736, and Gildon is said to have been followed by Taverner, who retired to Mr. Holman's house at Warkworth, and died in 1745. It appears certain, however, that the school was closed about the year 1745.

Besides these, there was a small scholastic establishment at Rowney-wood, near Beoley, in Worcestershire, under the Rev. Mr. Palin, but it cannot be traced later than 1740. At the same time a school was established in Edgbaston, near Birmingham; and another existed for a few years at Standon Lordship, in Hertfordshire; having been opened about ten years after the dissolution of the school at Twyford. It was chiefly for the sons of the nobility and gentry. Of this school the Rev. Richard Kendal was appointed head master, whose brother Hugh became later on the president of Sedgley Park. These were probably some of the schools alluded to in the "Letter to a Cardinal" already

referred to, as having been set up by several missionaries, who were encouraged to establish them by the success of Father Harvey's previous scholastic undertaking.

These are the only Catholic schools on record from the subversion of the Catholic Religion in this country, down to the middle of the eighteenth century, if we except a few day schools in London, and some in the country. One of the latter, however, deserves particular mention.

At Fernyhalgh, or Lady Well, near Preston, a small school was kept by a devout convert, named Alice Harrison, generally known as Dame Alice. It appears that she took Protestant pupils as well as Catholics, though the Protestants were probably but few. She had scholars from remote parts of England, and they numbered between one and two hundred. Among them were many of the most able and distinguished missionary priests, who afterwards laboured in the vineyard. Dame Alice opened her school, either at the end of the seventeenth century, or the beginning of the eighteenth. She conducted it with an assistant, Mary Backhouse, and it flourished for about half a century. Dame Alice died about 1760, having had under her charge in their childhood, among other ecclesiastics of note, the venerated president of Sedgley Park, the Rev. Thomas Southworth, and most probably his predecessor, thet

Rev. Hugh Kendal. Thus the humble dame's school of Ladywell became in some sort the precursor of the great establishment which it is here proposed to chronicle. It prepared the way for Sedgley Park School, by training up its first presidents. The good Dame Alice died just before the new school was to spring up. The other Catholic schools of any note, such as Twyford, Rowney-wood, and Standon Lordship, had all been broken up some years before, and thus left an opening for a new establishment, which was now absolutely essential for the home education of Catholic youth. For the great work of supporting and extending our holy religion in this unhappy country must chiefly be promoted by the Catholic education of the rising generation. The street was to be built again, and the walls of the august city and holy temple; but the work was to be accomplished still in troublesome times. (Daniel ix. 25.)

#### CHAPTER SECOND.

SCHOOL PROJECTED BY BISHOP CHALLONER—BEGUN BY MR. ERRINGTON, AT BETLEY—REMOVAL TO SEDGLEY PARK—ACCOUNT OF THE MANSION—AND OF THE NOBLE FAMILY OF DUDLEY AND WARD.

"That which we garnered in our eager youth
Becomes a long delight in after years:
The mind is strengthened, and the heart refreshed
By some old memory of gifted words,
That bring sweet feelings, answering to our own,
Or dreams that waken some more lofty mood
Than dwelleth with the commonplace of life."

ETHEL CHURCHILL.

Though the writer of these pages cannot carry back his personal recollections to the first foundation of the time-honoured school of Sedgley Park, yet his own reminiscences extend over more than half a century, which is by some years the greater portion of the school's existence. He "garnered" enough in his "eager youth" of the venerable establishment, and its early history, to become to him "a long delight in after years." It is an old "memory" which ever "brings sweet feelings," and it will be to him a delightful task, a perfect

labour of love, to record all that he has gathered, and all that he has personally known of a place dear to so many, and very dear to himself; and to fill a few pages, while yet he may,

"With airy images, and shapes which dwell Still unimpaired, though old, in the soul's haunted cell."—Byron.

In one sense, indeed, he can claim connexion with the first foundation of the school, by his having known some of those who were its very first inmates.

That illustrious son of Sedgley Park, Bishop Milner, informs us that the establishment owed its existence to the zeal of the venerable Bishop Challoner. He states, moreover, that those who first began the school, had previously set up a boarding school of the kind in Buckinghamshire, and then one in Wales. No records of either of these academies have been preserved, and it is not known in what parts of Buckinghamshire or Wales they were situated. Bishop Challoner had advised, and promoted the establishment of a school for girls, in the year 1760; and the great success which rewarded his zealous exertions in planning and supporting it, led him to form the design of a school for boys of a similar character. With this view he exhorted and encouraged the Rev. William Errington, whom Bishop Milner describes as the friend and constant companion of Bishop Challoner, to undertake the laudable work. In spite of much opposition and many great difficulties, Mr. Errington appears to have first opened successively the schools before mentioned; and in January, 1762, he removed for another trial to Betley, near Newcastle-under-Lyme, on the borders of Cheshire. Of this school no particulars have been wafted down the stream of time, except that its master was Rev. John Hurst, who afterwards resided in Norfolk. He became the missioner at Lynn Regis, about the year 1770, and died at Scrisbrick, in Lancashire, in January, 1792. The establishment must have been very small, as they only numbered twelve scholars when they removed from Betley to Sedgley Park. Their journey was accomplished in a covered waggon, and they arrived on Lady Day, 1763, and were met there by Rev. William Errington. On the Park medal, struck by Rev. John Kirk, when president of the school many years afterwards, appears this inscription: "Established in 1762." But this was an unfortunate mistake, which arose, as he explained to the present writer, from his not being aware at the time of the previous school at Betley. Mr. Tasker rectified his mistake in a letter, where he says that Mr. Hurst, with himself and eleven or twelve more, came from Betley, at Lady Day, 1763. Indeed the date 1763 still remains on a piece of lead in front of the High House. The following names

SEDGLEY PARK,



appear in the old book, begun at Betley, and still preserved at Sedgley Park:—

1762 January 9 Charles Flinn, evidently the first scholar.

24 Francis Halford

" 24 JAMES LEIGH

February 12 James Potier

" 12 CHARLES POTIER

March 13 James Edwards

" 13 WILLIAM OSBORN

June 28 John Baptist Slate

July 16 James Edwards, Jun.

" 26 BRYAN GORMOND

August 26 Edward Jones

29 Joseph Olivier

September 17 THOMAS PICKERING

October 28 Thomas West, al. Harrison

, 28 JAMES SNOWDON

1763 January 19 Hamilton Canfield

" 19 John Pullen

" 19 James Tasker

Here are the names of eighteen boys who were at the school at Betley. Some may have left before the removal to Sedgley Park, as Mr. Tasker speaks of about a dozen only; but probably all these came to the Park. It is a great pleasure to the writer to have known the Rev. James Tasker, who was afterwards the missioner at Cresswell, and died July 27, 1815. This little colony then made an humble beginning of that school at Sedgley Park, which was destined, under divine Providence, to be the chief nursery of the Catholic clergy, the place of education for thousands of Catholics in the

middle ranks, and not a few in the higher grades of the laity, and has flourished on the same spot for almost a century.

The house was a mansion of the noble family of Dudley and Ward, and built in the style of Inigo Jones. It was the residence of the Honble. John Ward, great grandson of the first Lord Ward. He became the sixth Baron Ward, October 21, 1757. His accession to the peerage occasioned his removal from Sedgley Park, and afforded the opportunity of renting it for a school. No vestige of a Park can now be traced. The approach to it, however, is between two very noble rows of elm trees, extending for about half a mile northward, in the direction of Wolverhampton, which is not two miles distant, and is plainly seen from the house. The populous village, or rather town of Sedgley, stands on an eminence in the opposite direction, behind the house, and about a mile distant. From this, and from the parish in which it stands, the house has its name of SEDGLEY PARK; but in the neighbourhood it has been much more commonly called the PARK HALL. The regularity of the grounds in front of the mansion, and the large old-fashioned garden at the back, laid out in the favourite geometrical style of the time, with the fine old trees of the rookery which so long remained, are all attestations of the house being of noble origin and occupation.

The house itself is a tall square building of brick, relieved and ornamented with stone, and three stories high. A remarkable peculiarity about it was the number of windows on every side, which when lighted up gave it an extraordinary appearance, and led to its being called about the country, the Lantern. Several of these windows were of course blocked up when it came to be occupied as a school. This building, which has been ever since known as the High House, at that time stood alone. The offices were wholly detached from it, and formed two separate buildings equally distant from the main house, and standing a little back, on either side, on the east and west. No covered passages to them would seem to have existed, and probably there was nothing but a gravel walk, with perhaps a fence or plain wall. Both these wings still exist, though one only can now be seen in its original state, the other being entirely concealed in front by the chapel and part of the play-room, which are built up to it, and much altered at the back from its original appearance. The building which formed the eastern wing consisted chiefly of stabling, and sleeping rooms for the men servants. That on the western side was laid out in offices, washhouse, brewhouse, laundry, and bed rooms for female servants. It is even yet to be seen as it was from the first, and is almost the only part of the house which has not undergone some

alterations; though it has long been connected with the "High House," by buildings to be hereafter described.

The Rev. William Errington rented this house of Lord Ward, who was created Viscount Dudley and Ward, April 23, 1763, a month after the school was opened at the Park. They took it only from year to year, Thomas Giffard, Esq., of Chillington, becoming guarantee to the noble lord for the punctual payment of the rent. In those days it was an act of extraordinary liberality to admit Catholic tenants to almost any occupation; but such liberality as Lord Dudley showed in this instance was quite unheard of. That a family mansion of a noble house should be actually occupied by "Popish" priests, masters and students, was enough, in those dreary days of oppression and persecution, to cause a perfect frenzy among the ignorant and prejudiced, and they unhappily included the nation almost to a man. no wonder therefore that complaints were made in parliament itself that Lord Dudley had let his house "for a Popish school," but the noble Viscount ably defended his conduct, and passed a well-merited eulogy upon the gentleman who was placed at the head of the infant establishment. Providence watched over it with singular care and protection; or it could never have subsisted in a neighbourhood so populous and unrefined, in the very centre of the kingdom,

in a position so elevated and conspicuous, and in times of so much bitter prejudice and wanton hostility. Lord Dudley made no secret of his esteem for the worthy president, the Rev. Hugh Kendal. On one occasion which has been handed down, and probably oftener, he met the Squire of Chillington, Mr. Giffard, and the Vicar Apostolic of the District, the Right Rev. Dr. John Hornvold, Bishop of Philomelia, and dined with them at Sedgley Park. He felt, no doubt, an attachment also to his former residence, which would lead him to visit it from time to time. This first Viscount Dudley and Ward died in 1774, and was succeeded by his eldest son, John, the second Viscount. He died in 1788. His half brother, William, succeeded him, becoming the third Viscount, and died April 25, 1823. His successor was created Earl of Dudley, and died March 5, 1833. Rev. William Humble then became Lord Ward, but died December 6, 1835, leaving a son, the present Lord Ward, who was born March 27, 1817.



#### CHAPTER THIRD.

MR. KENDAL, FIRST PRESIDENT—DESCRIPTION AND OCCUPATION OF THE ROOMS IN THE HIGH HOUSE—FIRST
SCHOLARS AND MASTERS—FIRST NEW BUILDING—REFECTORY—PLAYROOM—CHAPEL—STUDIES—DORMITORIES
—ARRIVALS OF MILNER AND OTHER NOTED SCHOLARS.

"Our life is as a circle, and our age
Turns to the thoughts and feelings which engage
In our young morn the vision and the vow;
For manhood's years are restless, and we learn
A bitter lesson, bitterer for its truth,
Which suits not with the golden dreams of youth,
And wearies us in age; and so we yearn,
Sated and palled, for boyhood's bliss once more."

"Weeds and Wild Flowers," by E. G. L. B.

Whether Mr. Errington acted at first as president of the infant establishment, or Mr. Hurst continued for a while as head master, which he had been while the school was at Betley, does not clearly appear. The most probable supposition is, that Mr. Errington was chiefly engaged in the general arrangements of the house, while Mr. Hurst acted as immediate master of the school. Mr. Errington died in 1768, and his representatives in London, unwilling to take charge of the establishment at

Sedgley Park, of which he was the immediate founder and proprietor, solicited Bishop Hornvold, the Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District, to undertake its management. He complied with their wish, and the school flourished under his guidance. His portrait was presented to Mr. Bowdon, for the Park, in 1842, by the Rev. Dr. Fletcher, and now hangs in the Refectory. He must have left many of his books at the Park; for books with his name in his own handwriting were commonly met with, half a century afterwards. He seems to have retired to London shortly after the appointment of Mr. Kendal as president; for in the old book of the first accounts kept at the Park, it is often noted that the accounts have been sent to him, and payment received by him. By this it would seem that he acted as the London agent for the school. Moreover, the first mention of another agent, Mr. Bolton, occurs in 1768, the year of Mr. Errington's death; and this Mr. Bolton, probably a priest, is continually referred to as agent to the latest date of this old account book, 1777. Whatever part Mr. Errington took in the administration of the establishment, it is certain that in May, 1763, only a few weeks after the opening of the school, the Rev. Hugh Kendal was appointed its first president. Mr. Hurst remained as chaplain and spiritual director for five or six years, and was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph Syers about the year 1769.

It has been observed of the first president, Mr. Kendal, that all things considered, a better could not have been chosen. He was a man highly respected by all who knew him. began the school upon the same plan which had been followed at Twyford; and, as far as circumstances would permit, established the discipline which had been maintained there, and which he had himself lived under, at Douay College. The various apartments of the "High House" were appropriated as most convenient. The best parlour, so well known by its enduring and distinguishing name of the "Big Parlour," being the largest room, was used as the school room, or, in Park phraseology, the "Study." This and other rooms must have been partially furnished when the house was first taken; for many articles of furniture remain to this day, of a character and style undoubtedly distinguishing them as having been fixtures in the mansion a hundred years ago. In the "Big Parlour" there is a venerable old looking glass in three compartments, surmounted by a painting of a landscape, the subject of which has never been ascertained. It has the character of a Flemish scene. This occupies the whole space of the wall above the fireplace, and must have been fitted there from the first furnishing of the room. Another antique and very elegant glass, in the style of Louis Quatorze, hangs opposite this, between the two windows, and

there it has hung from time immemorial. One corresponding with it exactly hangs now in the strangers' bed room which adjoins that of the president. It used to hang in what was formerly the store-room, but is now the "Little Parlour" for the masters. In the store-room also was a very beautiful marble slab; but this was removed a few years ago into the "Big Parlour," where it forms a splendid piece of furniture between the two windows. and some other articles undoubtedly existed in the house when it was first opened as a school. But the most curious of these pieces of furniture is the large mirror in the "White Room," which must have been a principal bedroom of the mansion. This is a glass of large dimensions, octagonal in shape, and set in a richly carved and moulded frame, the borders of the glass being painted with a graceful scroll pattern. When this glass was in good condition, and the frame gilt, it must have been exceedingly ornamental, and even in its present state it is quite unique and venerable. Its place, as late as 1790, was in the old "Little Parlour," between the windows. To the general reader these details will seem frivolous, but Parkers will read them with interest, and for them this history is principally penned.

Scholars soon flowed in to swell the numbers of the new establishment. A venerable old servant, Mary Harris, who was engaged at the

Park from the first, and who remained in the house for upwards of forty years, was fond of boasting of her having known the first boys, particularly one, named Slater, by whom she must have meant John Baptist Slate. The writer well remembers poor Mary, who was, for long years, an inmate of the Park, and used to sit in her old age carding wool in the tailor's shop. She was the last left to tell us of the early days of Sedgley Park; and finally removed to a cottage at Sedgley, where she died about the year 1814. The annual increase of boys must have been very satisfactory. The old book of the boys' accounts shows that from the opening of the school, at Sedgley Park, March 25, 1763, to the end of that year, 25 new boys came. In 1764, there came 51. In 1765, new boys arrived to the number of 30; and in 1766, there came 35. At the end of seven years, the number at school was between ninety and a hundred. The worthy Mr. Joseph Harbut, so long connected with Sedgley Park, was a teacher there almost from the beginning. The other masters with him were Messrs. Layfield, Marsh, Jones, and Parkinson, who are all described as able and respectable men, well qualified for the duties of the school. Mr. Harbut continued long after these his first associates; and, as will be seen in the course of this history, remained at Sedgley Park for the remainder of his life, a period of upwards of

SEDGLEY PARK,



forty years. He seems to have been early employed by Mr. Kendal in keeping the school accounts, which he continued to do ever afterwards. His writing, so well known to old Parkers, occurs first in the old book, in the year 1774. A memorandum in his handwriting in 1779, will be amusing in these days of iron roads and steam-power travelling. It runs thus:—"January 14, 1779. Mr. Morgan, "at the Crown Inn, Stone, informs us that a "coach sets off from his house every Tuesday" and Friday, at two o'clock in the afternoon, "for Lancaster and Kendal, and reaches those "places in two days from Stone. Fare for "Insides, £1. 1s., Outsides, 10s. 6d."

Mr. Kendal finding the establishment attended with so much success, and the number of scholars rapidly increasing, found it necessary, probably in the second year, to provide more extensive accommodation. Though he had no lease of the premises, he had experienced so much generosity and kindness from Lord Dudley and Ward, that he felt secure in his establishment, and was encouraged to add such buildings as the increased number of scholars required. He, therefore, erected, on the eastern side of the "High House," a range of building which connected it with the wing which before stood detached from it. It was an extensive double building of very plain character, having two long rooms on the ground floor, the one in

front being the boys' play-room, and the one at the back, the refectory. Over both were two other rooms, that above the play-room being divided later by boarded partitions into three "study-places," and the room over the refectory being the chapel. The altar end of this chapel was at the eastern extremity. The wall at that end appears to have been covered with a rich red paper, as much remained on that wall for many years afterwards. The old chapel chandeliers of japanned tin were long after used in the refectory, and the old tabernacle and some other articles of the altar furniture long remained in the little oratory in the "New Building," and in other parts of the house. The top story of course was made into two dormitories, with small rooms for the masters, boarded off in the corners, and some openings left in the main partition-wall which ran the whole length between them, for the purpose of ventilation. The windows were in keeping with the plain character of the building, being merely casements, with square panes of ordinary glass. And thus they remained till but a few years ago, in their primitive and venerable simplicity. As an instance of the little attention paid to appearance, there was an ugly spout passing down the front, and almost in the centre, when a very little contrivance would have produced a less unsightly arrangement. As this double

building was of course twice the breadth of the old wing, the front stood several feet before it, and allowed room for a porch-entrance to the play-room from the "bounds," which porch, it hardly need be observed, was also in perfect keeping with the building,

"Ut prisca gens mortalium."

The good president evidently consulted utility even to the exclusion of ornament; or he might, with little more expense, have so constructed his building, as to form a harmonious appendage to the really beautiful centre, the "High House." The buildings now consisted of four edifices, three of which were united, and formed a line, but were of very different heights, dimensions, and character. The old wing on the eastern side, which was now joined on to the new building, between it and the "High House," consisted of only two stories; it had a door in the centre, on each side of which were two plain windows, and small square windows appeared above these, with one over the door.

Only two years after the first establishment of Sedgley Park, the most illustrious of its pupils began his studies there. John Milner arrived April 22, 1765, but remained only one year. He had been preceded, among others, by John Greenway, John Halford, and Joseph Hanson, in 1763, and by John Bew, James Crosby, and Roland Broomhead, in 1764. Stephen Tempest came a fortnight before him,

in 1765. All these became priests. John Bew was afterwards a Doctor of Sorbonne, and president of Oscott College, till it was purchased by Bishop Milner, and then for a short time of Old Hall Green College. He died October 25, Roland Broomhead studied afterwards at Rome, and came over in 1775, being the first Parker who came on the mission. He was a most zealous, laborious, and edifying missioner for many years at Manchester, and died October 12, 1820. In the same year, with John Milner, came Charles Timings, John Griffiths, and Thomas and William Southworth. Thomas was destined to be afterwards connected most intimately with Sedgley Park, as will be seen; but he remained as a scholar only five months, leaving, with his brother, in May, 1766. The above were all priests, but to avoid tedious enumeration, it will suffice to mention the more conspicuous names of boys who came afterwards, and chiefly of those who became priests. Joseph Hodgson, afterwards Vice-President of Douay, and subsequently Vicar-General in the London District, came in 1766. The classical tourist, John Eustace, came in 1767. On the 25th of April, 1770, came John Kirk, who remained at the school three years. will appear in the course of this history in close connexion with the establishment, and his merits and labours elsewhere are well known. Thomas Smith came July 5, 1774, and remained

about seven years. He was afterwards consecrated Bishop of Bolina, in 1810, and coadjutor to Bishop Wm. Gibson; on whose death, in 1821, he became Vicar Apostolic of the Northern District, and died at Ushaw, July 30, 1831.

The pension at the beginning was twelve The boys generally brought with them a catechism, a prayer book or two, such as the double or single Manual, or the Garden of the Soul; some brought spelling books, and some dictionaries. Thus JOHN MILNER brought with him a Douay Catechism, two Prayer books, Dictionary, "Figures," &c., the last being the old Douay name for the Latin Grammar. The charges for extras are amusing for their economy and simplicity, such as, for a top, 2d.; window broken, 3d.; garden, 1s. 6d.; a cushion (for the hair), 4½d.; for running away, 5s. 4d. One boy, it seems, ran away twice, and the charges are 6s. 7d. and 5s. 4d. One boy's death is recorded, and his funeral expenses charged only 18s. 4d., to which, however, must be added six quarts of ale, 2s. The boys being chiefly of the mercantile and middle classes did not usually remain long at the school. Few stayed longer than three or four years, and many only one or two. On the 5th of January, 1774, came John Sumner, who was so long afterwards connected with the Park, and his younger brother James. John left it for Lisbon College, July 12, 1779.

## CHAPTER FOURTH.

EARLY CHAPLAINS—NOTED ARRIVALS—GENERAL DISCIPLINE
—ROOMS IN THE NEW BUILDING—THE "PLATTS" AND
"BOUNDS"—DECLINE OF MR. KENDAL'S HEALTH—MR.
SOUTHWORTH'S ARRIVAL—RIOTS OF 1780—MR. KENDAL'S
DEATH, AND CHARACTER.

"Berührst du das schwachre Gefühl
Beim kunftigen Sorgengewühl,
Erinnerung, nicht mehr so labend:
Dann führe den ruhigen Blick
Zum morgen des Lebens zurück,
Und heiterer sinket der Abend."

JACOB NEUSS.

O memory, when thou recallest
The dark brooding cloud of our cares,
Thou bringest no sweets, but appallest
The soul with distresses and fears:
Then turn thy enlivening glance
To life's morning, all jocund and light,
The vision our cares shall entrance,
And the evening of life be more bright.

The worthy president, Mr. Kendal, had the satisfaction to find his establishment flourish beyond his expectations; and it became an invaluable acquisition as a place of education to the Catholics of this country. It has ever since sustained its reputation, and continued

the principal nursery for the clergy, as well as the most frequented school for the education of Catholic youth in the middle classes of society. A good commercial education was its principal aim and object; ever subordinate, however, to the sound and careful inculcation of religious knowledge and practical piety. The Rev. Joseph Syers continued at the Park. as chaplain, but a short time, and having succeeded Mr. Hurst, either in the latter part of 1769, or early in 1770, was followed by Rev. Thomas Hartley about three years after. It was Mr. Hartley who inspired Dr. Kirk with a desire to go to Rome, where he himself had been educated, rather than to Douay College; and it is well known that this desire was accomplished. Mr. Thomas Hartley remained at the Park as chaplain till the year 1781, when he retired in consequence of bad health, and died at Moseley, July 11th, in that year.

A few arrivals of boys may here be mentioned as having occurred about this period, who afterwards became worthy and exemplary priests. Thomas Price came May 12, 1776, who went from the Park to the English College at Valladolid, where he was for some years Professor of Divinity, was chaplain to Sir William and Sir George Jerningham, at Cossey Hall, and afterwards missioner at Stafford for about 18 years, till his death, which occurred suddenly, in London, June 15, 1831, in the 70th year of

his age.—Gaspar Bricknell came June 30, 1777, who was many years missioner at Yoxall, and died May 6, 1833, aged 64.—William Croskell came May 15, 1779, who was afterwards imprisoned at Dourlens with the inmates of Douay College, and wrote an interesting account of their imprisonment, which appeared in the Catholic Magazine for 1831. He was ordained priest at York with Dr. Lingard, was afterwards Grand Vicar of the Northern District, and died at Durham, February 19, 1838, aged 70.—Edward Peach, so long the respected pastor of St. Chad's, Birmingham, came to the Park, June 24, 1783. He died at Birmingham, September 8, 1839, aged about 70. George Howe came July 15, 1783, who died at Newport, Shropshire, in November, 1837.

What was the distribution of time or the course of studies at the Park at this early time, can only be conjectured from what is known to have prevailed at a later period. For, with due allowance for needful improvements, every one acquainted with the Park knows well its long tenacious adherence to old customs and methods in every department. It may, therefore, be safely concluded that the very first discipline and order of studies was the same, or nearly the same, which prevailed for many years afterwards. It has already been observed that the whole system was literally an adaptation of the venerable old usages of Douay

College, as far as circumstances would permit. It was a common remark at Douay College, that a boy from the Park was soon recognised on his arrival at Douay, by the correct knowledge he had of his Catechism, and of his religious duties. This was assuredly the highest distinction to which the sons of Sedgley Park could have aspired. And every Parker may congratulate himself upon the well known fact, that the same has ever been a characteristic mark of a boy educated at that careful nursery of religion and piety. It may perhaps be allowed to repeat here a few words of eulogy written long years ago, that, for the truth they convey, they may be perpetuated. "That distinguished nursery of piety and asylum of innocence was the temple where the youthful Samuel was prepared for the sacred functions of his sublime calling; it was the encampment of those who were chosen to serve God apart from the corruption of the nations around them, and its tabernacles would have extorted a blessing from the mouth which came prepared with a curse. Religion was the foundation on which every duty and every exercise was established; and a singular innocence and purity of manners has been ever remarkable within the precincts of that happy institution.\*"

As the great object of the establishment of Sedgley Park was the education of the sons of

<sup>\*</sup> Article in the Catholic Magazine, Sept., 1832, p. 564, by F. C. H.

the middle and poorer classes of Catholics on the most economical plan, there can be no doubt that every thing about the school was homely and simple. Enough, indeed, remained in after years to attest this. Every part of the house was fitted up and furnished in the plainest manner, the diet was rather scanty than abundant, and the clothing of the boys regulated upon a plan of rigid economy. Possessing such a procurator as the excellent Mr. Harbut, there was no danger of mismanagement, needless expenditure, or inaccurate accounts. He was deprived of the use of his right hand, it is believed, from his birth; it was bent up from the wrist, which appeared powerless, and this lame hand was usually occupied with his handkerchief; but he wrote readily and beautifully with his left hand; and his account books were perfect models of neat writing and accurate keeping.

The school then was carried on during the presidentship of Mr. Kendal, with the "High House" occupied by the superiors, and the masters, with strangers' apartments, and storeroom and bedroom for the housekeeper. It is probable that parlour boarders were taken, as they certainly were some years after, but this is not known. The new building erected, as already described by Mr. Kendal, gave him a very commodious chapel on the south side, and ample schoolroom on the north. Two long

dormitories, with beds on both sides, accommodated the boys, and some probably slept in two small additional rooms, which were the garrets under the roof of the stable-wing originally existing. What makes it probable that these rooms were made into dormitories at that early period, is the style of the boys' bedsteads, which stood in them for many years afterwards, and corresponded exactly with those in the long dormitories. The wood was plain beech, deal, and poplar; the last being also employed throughout for the wainscoting of the playroom which was left unpainted, and for that of the refectory, which was painted of a sober lead colour. Over the stables, in the old wing, were four small rooms, the farthest was in after times the "Latin study;" and the one immediately adjoining was Mr. Harbut's room in all probability, from the time when Mr. Kendal's building opened a communication with the original stable-wing. Mr. Harbut had his office next to his room, and there was a very small room next to that, which in the latter part of his time was filled with his school-books, but was afterwards used as a servant's bed-room. This had been at first the sacristy to the old chapel, with a door into it near the window, from the sanctuary. Mr. Harbut's room contained his bed in a recess; and a plain table and a couple of chairs completed its humble furniture. And there that excellent man was

contented to lodge for more than half a century. in a room very small, and affording but very scanty accomodation, with little, indeed, that could be called comfort. In front of the "High · House" was a square place walled in and laid out in two long quadrangular grass-plots, with a gravel walk leading up to the front door, from a white gate of wood in the centre of the wall. Round the walls inside were beds of flowers and shrubs, with gravel walks between them and the grass-plots. This enclosure is wellknown to all Parkers by the familiar name it has always had of "The Platts." When the school was small, it served as a playground for the boys, but when it became requisite to have a larger boundary, palings were put up in a line with the west wall of the "Platts," and carried round three sides of a square, which enclosed about an acre of ground in front of the whole line of contiguous buildings, as they then existed. Thus was originally formed the famous Park "Bounds," the dimensions of which have continued ever since unchanged. At the upper end of the "Bounds" a barrier of strong oak posts and rails was placed as a protection to the space left for the boys' gardens, and most of these venerable oak railings still remain. How many pleasurable recollections arise to the mind of a "Parker," when he thinks of the old "Bounds," the scene of so many sports, and joys, and light-hearted

pursuits in the golden morning of life. He can, perhaps, as the writer would undertake to do for himself, recall some incident of every square yard of that beloved and well-remembered space of ground. Hiś old companions, his favourite games, his playthings, his adventures in all the little chequered day of youth, with its bright sun and its faint shadows, all come back when he treads again, though but in fancy, the old Park "Bounds."

"Up springs, at every step, to claim a tear, Some little friendship formed and cherished here; And not the lightest leaf, but trembling teems, With golden visions and romantic dreams."

ROGERS.

The school went on prosperously, but its worthy president found his health declining, and suffered much from severe and repeated attacks of gout. It became necessary for him to have assistance in the management of so important an establishment as Sedgley Park had now become. Accordingly, his near relation and confidential friend, Rev. Thomas Southworth. was called over from Douay College, and afforded him important assistance during the latter time of his life and presidentship. His valuable life, however, was hastened to its close by the shocks which his enfeebled constitution had received, from the alarm excited by the serious disturbances in London, and in various parts of the kingdom, the memorable Lord George Gordon's riots. The fury of the populace was excited by a society, calling itself the Protestant Association, with Lord George Gordon at its head, organised in opposition to the liberal intentions of the ministry to relax the severity of the penal laws against Catholics. On the 2nd of June, 1780, fifty or sixty thousand people, wearing blue cockades, headed by the turbulent Lord George, proceeded to the Houses of Parliament, with a monster petition signed by nearly 120,000 Protestants. insulting both Lords and Commons, the mob dispersed about the metropolis, and continued to commit the most dreadful outrages till the night of the 7th of June, when, by the firmness of the King, who, himself, ordered the military to act, and stationed them all over the metropolis, the riots were firmly and effectually suppressed. In those five days, however, the outrages committed by this Protestant mob against their inoffensive Catholic fellow-subjects were almost incredible. They burnt several Catholic chapels, plundered many Catholics, burnt or pulled down some of their schools and many of their houses, and uttered the most terrible threats against their persons. The mischief spread so extensively, that they burnt and destroyed the houses of several other persons who supported the government, and even that of Lord Chief Justice Mansfield. They set fire to the King's Bench, Fleet, and other prisons, burnt down

Newgate, and of course released all the prisoners. They twice assailed the Bank of England, but it escaped, by being well guarded. In a word, the whole city was in the hands of the rioters, till the arrival of large bodies of troops in the evening of the 7th of June, who dispersed the mob, killing and wounding many. Not less than thirty-six fires were visible on that evening. Thus, as a Protestant writer has observed, did a dark and malignant spirit of persecution show itself, in an unworthy petition for the repeal of the wise and humane statute just passed in favour of the Catholics. "That " petition was brought forward by a mob, with "the evident purpose of intimidation, and was "justly rejected. But the attempt was accom-" panied and followed by such daring violence "as is unexampled in history.\* The outrages in London were imitated in some other parts of the country; and the populace, particularly in Hull, Bath, and Bristol, in the first two of which they actually burnt Catholic chapels, would have perpetrated similar ravages, but for the firm and speedy interposition of the magistrates. Alarm and apprehension, however, prevailed all over the country; and the establishment of Sedgley Park was most likely, in a time of such excitement against Catholics, to become an object of popular indignation and violence. Groups of ill-looking fellows were

<sup>\*</sup> Boswell, Life of Johnson, Ch. XVI.

observed lurking about the premises, but Providence watched over the institution, and no mischief was attempted.

Poor Mr. Kendal, however, suffered from the consternation into which, in common with all Catholics, he had been thrown by the daily intelligence of the excesses committed; and his constitution, already much debilitated by attacks of gout, could not bear up against this double assault of mental and bodily affliction. survived in a very weak state till the following year, 1781, when he departed this life on the 2nd of July, after long and meritorious labours in the cause of religion, and after spending the last eighteen years of his life in the very difficult work of forming, guiding, and governing the new establishment of Sedgley Park, with conspicuous ability and consummate wisdom and prudence. He was buried in the churchyard, at Sedgley. It has been already recorded of him that he was highly and universally respected. From his portrait, which, by those who knew him, was always considered a good likeness, the traits of his character may easily be collected. It hung for many years in the "Big Parlour," but is now on the wall of the "Big Staircase." It was painted by the old drawingmaster, Mr. Richard Paddey, and though a poor stiff figure as a work of art, the countenance bears the character of a faithful likeness. The good old man looks with a calm blue eye

and mild benevolent features, kind, paternal, and venerable. There is, however, incidental evidence that he was somewhat severe in corporal punishment. For the Rev. John Chetwode Eustace, the author of the "Classical Tour in Italy," who had been a boy at the Park, from 1767 to 1774, speaks of Mr. Kendal as "of flogging memory." This occurs in his letter to Mr. Kirk, to be hereafter noticed, and would seem the result of a feeling impression. Mr. Kendal appears in his portrait in a white wig, such as his good successor always wore, and is dressed in a brown coat, which was indeed the colour invariably worn by the Catholic clergy, as in those days they could not venture to appear in black, or at all in clerical costume. A letter lies before him, addressed to himself, as an ingenious mode of designating the portrait. The decease of Mr. Kendal closed the first marked period in the history of the Park; and but a short time before his death, a change had taken place in the chaplaincy, the Rev. Thomas Hartley having been succeeded by the Rev. Richard Cornethwaite.

## CHAPTER FIFTH.

MR. SOUTHWORTH, PRESIDENT—SUCCESSIVE CHAPLAINS—
NEW BUILDINGS ON THE WEST SIDE—PUMP-HOUSE—
DORMITORY—INFIRMARY—DAIRY—KITCHEN—MAID-SERVANTS' ROOM—PRESIDENT'S ROOMS—MODE OF CALLING
"UP" IN THE MORNING—MORE CHANGES OF CHAPLAINS—MASTERS—LIME TREES PLANTED—OLD JOHN
MOORE, THE GARDENER—PRESIDENT AND CHAPLAIN
EXCHANGE PLACES.

"Quelles sont donc ces fortes attaches par qui nous sommes enchainés?.... C'est peut être le souvenir d'un vieux precepteur qui nous eleva, et des jeunes compagnons de notre enfance;.... enfin ce sont les circonstances les plus simples, si l'on veut même, les plus triviales."

Genie du Christianisme I., p. 182.

What then are these strong attachments by which we are captivated? .... Perhaps the recollection of some aged preceptor who brought us up, and of the youthful companions of our childhood; ... in fine they are circumstances the most simple, nay, if you will, even the most trivial.

It has been already mentioned that Mr. Kendal had been materially assisted in the management and government of Sedgley Park during the latter part of his life, by the Rev. Thomas Southworth, who was his nephew. No one could have been found better qualified to succeed him in the office of president, and accordingly Mr. Southworth was at once appointed,

after the death of Mr. Kendal, by the Bishop, Dr. Thomas Talbot, who had succeeded Dr. Hornvold as Vicar Apostolic, on his death in 1779. Mr. Southworth began his presidentship with Mr. Cornethwaite as chaplain. In the short space of three years after, the school saw four chaplains in succession; and this seems the place to record their names. Mr. Cornethwaite was succeeded by Rev. Blaise Morey, who had been one of the first boys after the school was removed to Sedglev Park. Mr. Cornethwaite died at Harvington Hall, in September, 1803. Mr. Morey was followed by Rev. James Corne, and died at Gifford's Hall, in Suffolk, March 2, 1823, at the advanced age of 85. Mr. Corne died at Shrewsbury, in December, 1817. His successor at Sedgley Park was Rev. William Hartley, who died at Hainton, July 8, 1794. After him came Rev. John Roe, August 28, 1784; he had been a student at the Park, and came July 29, 1776: he made the fourth chaplain from the year 1781; but why these changes occurred so rapidly, is a question on which no information can now be obtained.

Mr. Southworth, soon after he became president, made some very useful additions to the buildings erected by his predecessor. It became necessary, as the school had considerably increased, to provide various other apartments. He therefore resolved to connect the "High

House" on the west side with the old wing previously existing; and this he did by building the infirmary and dormitory over it. Below the infirmary, underground, he made a dairy. Up to this time, among other primitive usages at the Park, the boys washed at the pump in the open air. Nor did Mr. Southworth's new building provide much better accommodation. The pump-house was certainly under shelter of a roof, formed by the floor of part of the new dormitory, but it was still left open on the north side, and for more than half a century after, the poor boys had no protection from the keen north wind, rain and driving snow, when they came down, early on a winter's morning, to wash in a long trough lined with lead, and often frozen over so as to defy breaking. Over head, among the empty trunks and boxes of the boys, stowed away in glorious confusion, the poultry used to roost, and added to the discomfort and annoyance of this open wash-house in ways to be easily conceived. On one side, along the wall, stood tubs, into which the wash for the hogs used to be poured as it was brought up by Charles Lloyd, the baker and brewer, from the scullery. So that this place was altogether as comfortless and ill-contrived as could have been imagined. One main reason, no doubt, for this pump-house being left open, was to allow the farm horses to come and drink; another strange custom, which can hardly be

reconciled with the most ordinary consideration for the comfort, health, or safety of the pupils. Every day, once or twice, these heavy horses were taken through the "Bounds," often in the midst of the boys at play, to be watered at the pump-trough, and then came clattering back, to repeat the danger and annoyance caused by their passing through the "Bounds." And this nuisance was suffered to go on for half a century, and more. It occasionally gave rise to incidents of very opposite characters. The writer well remembers Bill Howell, a servant boy, being terribly kicked in the "Bounds" by the cart horse, Boxer, and his face laid open and disfigured for life. And, on the other hand, the ludicrous event of the stiff old horse, Smiler, walking into the play-room one morning, while the boys were at catechism. Smiler died not long after this performance, in a good old age; and many a Parker will recollect a current report that the old horse had been boiled down and served for the Monday's dinner of the boys instead of their usual beef; so that boiled beef got the name of "Smiler" for generations of Park boys afterwards.

Mr. Southworth's new building then provided that essential appendage to every large school, an infirmary, and also a long dormitory, divided into two rooms. The small room, boarded off in one corner of that farthest from the "High House," was not made till more

than twenty years after. The additional accommodations, above described, were made some time before the year 1785. But they were yet insufficient for the continued increase of the establishment. So that shortly after, Mr. Southworth put up another building in front of his previous erection, but extending only half its length. This consisted of a large convenient kitchen, underground, to which a communication was made, by opening a wide arch in the wall of the original kitchen under the "High House. Over this, on the ground floor, he made a bed-room or dormitory, for the maid servants, adjoining the housekeeper's room. Above, were a bed-room for the president, opening out of his sitting-room, and another small room at the end, always known as the "closet," which served as a bed-room for the master who had charge of the dormitory previously built. On the roof of this building, was hung the bell under a small wooden shed, surmounted by a vane, the bell rope passing through the closet down into the passage below, where the bell was rung. But this very obvious improvement was not made for about twenty years more, and the only modes of summoning the inmates to chapel, and study, and meals, were by a bell, with a wheel and rope in the corner by the housekeeper's room,which had been, no doubt, a fixture in the old mansion,-and by a handbell, which good

old Mr. Harbut used to ring out of the window of the "French study."

But the most original expedient in use all this time was the one for calling the boys up in the morning. "Francis, the Cobbler," good old Francis Cheadle, who had come to the Park about the year 1792, used to come along each dormitory in succession, bawling his loudest, and holding out the note to the end of his breath, "U - - - - - p!" This lasted from the door nearly to the end of the dormitory, and he finished up his summons with as many sharp short utterances of "Up lads!" "Up lads!" "Up, up, up, Lads!" as the march along the rest of the room, and the march back required. It was a most effectual signal, impossible not hear, or obey. When Francis married one of the maids, Nanny Perks, in 1805, he went to live in the lane half a mile from the Park; and then "Lewis, the Cobbler," succeeded to this primitive performance, but his lungs were far less stentorophonic, and soon after, the bell was put up, and called up the boys very effectually, as it was well heard from end to end of the establishment.

Boswell mentioned to Johnson, that he was afraid he put into his journal too many little incidents. But the great man replied: "There is "nothing, Sir, too little for so little a creature "as man. It is by studying little things that "we attain the great art of having as little

"misery and as much happiness as possible."\*
This must be the writer's apology for the minute details already given, and for a crowd more yet to come. They have afforded him too much pleasure in the recollection and description, to allow him to doubt of their being acceptable to many sons of old Sedgley Park.

When these buildings were completed, Mr. Southworth had acquired most valuable means of carrying on the establishment with increased efficiency and comfort. The Rev. John Roe, it has been mentioned, came to be chaplain in 1784, but in about two years and a half he left, and his place was filled by Rev. John Kirk, who had come over from Rome in 1784, and took Mr. Roe's place at Sedgley Park, January 24, 1786. For some unexplained cause, it seems that the place was doomed to perpetual changes in the spiritual department; for Mr. Kirk remained only two years, and was succeeded by Rev. Charles Clements, February 23, 1788. He had been a student at the Park, and came April 26, 1778. He remained as chaplain at the Park but a very short time, and Mr. Roe became again chaplain there soon after Easter in the same year, 1788. Clements died November 12, 1797. Mr. Roe left again in 1790. He continued ever after intimately connected with the Park, and as he resided but a few miles off, was a frequent

<sup>\*</sup> Life of Johnson, Ch. xIV.

visitor. He continued at the quiet country mission of Black Ladies, near Wolverhampton, till his death, which occurred June 28, 1838, at the venerable age of 81 years.

Here occurs an interval in the chaplaincy at Sedglev Park, which the present writer cannot quite satisfactorily fill up. He believes, however, that on Mr. Roe's leaving in 1790, Mr. Clements came back, and remained till Mr. Kirk came again, which was on the 18th of December, 1792. For the writer received a letter once from Mr. Kirk, in answer to some enquiries, in which he states that he returned at that date from Pipe Hall, near Lichfield, "exchanging with Mr. Clements," so that Mr. Clements probably had filled the situation of chaplain for the second time, from 1790, when Mr. Roe finally quitted it. Mr. Kirk, however, added that of this he was not quite certain; and Dr. Bowdon assured the writer that during some part of his own first residence at the Park, as a boy and parlour boarder, Mr. Southworth managed the whole himself without a chaplain. Dr. Bowdon came about 1790, and remained about five years.

It is not a little remarkable that though there had been only two presidents during thirty years from the foundation of the Park, there were in that space of time ten different chaplains, and at least a dozen changes, which must have caused considerable inconvenience in many ways, and proved injurious to the spiritual concerns of the establishment. Even now Mr. Kirk did not come with the intention of remaining at the Park; but only to stay there while some alterations were making for his accommodation at Harvington Hall, in Worcestershire, to which place he had been appointed. The masters, about this time, were Messrs. Harbut, MoStay, Sumner, Thomas Richmond, Sergeant, Baines, and Yates.

It was in the latter part of January, 1789, that George Oliver came to the Park, making the number of boys 91. He remained the full "stagership" of seven years, leaving for Stonyhurst College, March 21, 1796. Dr. Oliver is too well known and esteemed for his great scholarship and indefatigable antiquarian and historical researches to need encomium here.

Every one, familiar with Sedgley Park, has admired the beautiful row of lime trees extending along the whole line of the upper part of the "Bounds." These were planted in the year 1789, by the care of Mr. Harbut, and put in by the well known old gardener, John Moore. The lime tree, of all others, will best resist the action of smoke, as may be observed in many parts of London; but it is not likely that good Mr. Harbut had any knowledge of this property in lime trees, or a foresight of the increased ordeal to which all the trees in that neighbourhood would be in after years exposed by the

accumulated smoke from multiplied furnaces, whenever the east wind prevailed. His object was a happy combination of the dulce with the utile, and this has been completely attained. Mr. Southworth used to say of these trees, that they had fully answered the end of their creation. Grown long ago together into a compact mass, they form a beautiful and graceful object, which the lover of nature contemplates with much pleasure; and they prove a valuable shelter for the boys to run under in a summer shower. "Under the trees!" was the word of command, when a sudden shower came on. not likely to be of sufficient length, or volume, to require a retreat into the play-room. gardener, John Moore, who planted these trees, probably came to the Park in the year 1783. It is most likely that he planted, in the year 1793, that row of fir trees which used to adorn the end of the "Bounds," outside the rails. These were taken down about the year 1807. John married about this time, and lived in a comfortable house at the end of the lane, called Goldthorn Hill. His wife sold "socks," as will hereafter be explained. He brought up a large family, several of whom obtained respectable situations in life, and at last old John died, full of years, after receiving devoutly the rites of the Church, April 30th. 1839, aged 84, having been at work the previous week, when the writer of these pages shook

hands with him, and John said of himself, in his usual phrase, that he was "heart well." The next day he was seized with inflammation in the bowels, which speedily removed him to a happy rest from his labours.

In July, 1790, came Joseph Hunt, afterwards a master, as will be mentioned in its proper place. When he came, the masters were Messrs. Harbut, Thos. Richmond, who taught Latin and French, Boyce, Scissons, Baines, and Croskell. Joseph Hunt left school at Midsummer, 1792.

Mr. Kirk had been this time at the Park acting as chaplain only four months, when, as it is observed in the memoir which appeared soon after his death, "a new field better suited to his "peculiar habits of business opened to him at "Sedgley Park." On the 16th of April, 1793, he received the following letter from his bishop, Dr. Thomas Talbot. "Mr. Southworth ap-"pearing to have an insuperable objection to "remain any longer head master at Sedgley " Park School, Bishop Berington (his coadjutor) "and myself, taking his objections into con-"sideration, cannot refuse to acquiesce to his "desire. We wish very much to substitute "you in his place, to which we beg you will "not form any objection, as the public good "seems to make such an arrangement quite "necessary." Mr. Kirk's own account states that this letter, being quite unexpected, gave him much surprise and regret; yet not thinking

it proper to oppose his own feelings and wishes to such a request, he gave his consent.\* He did this, however, on the express condition, that Mr. Southworth should remain in charge of the spiritual affairs, and assist him in conducting the establishment. To this Mr. Southworth agreed, and these excellent men voluntarily exchanged places, April 27, 1793. Dr. Bowdon, afterwards so long connected with the Park, who was then a student there, and a parlour boarder, used to tell the present writer how well he remembered Mr. Southworth and Mr. Kirk changing places in the parlour, at the dinner table, to his great surprise, as he had no idea that such a change was in contemplation. "To conduct the spiritual department of the "house was, however," says Dr. Weedall, "the "peculiar vocation of that dear fatherly man, "and thus a mutual exchange of office was "amicably made.—The venerable and saintly "Thomas Southworth, modestly sinking into a "subordinate rank, employed himself as vice-" president in the more congenial duties of the "spiritual guidance of the house. Thus, Douay "and Rome amalgamated, and by the union, "Sedgley Park greatly benefited in piety, dis-"cipline, comfort, and efficiency of system." †

<sup>\*</sup> Catholic Magazine, 1834, p. 497. The author has borrowed much from this account for the present History.

<sup>†</sup> Memoir of the Rev. John Kirk, D.D., by the Very Rev. Dr., now Monsignore Weedall, in the Tablet and Catholic Standard, Jan. 24, 1852, and Catholic Directory, 1853.

## CHAPTER SIXTH.

MR. KIRK, PRESIDENT—PENSION AND TERMS OF THE SCHOOL—EAST WING BUILT IN THE GARDEN—BALL PLACE BUILT, AND BATH MADE—OTHER IMPROVEMENTS—THE PARK MEDAL—ARRIVALS OF NOTED BOYS—REMOVAL OF MR. KIRK TO LONGBIRCH—MR. SOUTHWORTH AGAIN PRESIDENT—DEATH OF BISHOP BERINGTON.

"As turns the pausing traveller back,
At close of evening to survey
The windings of the weary track,
Through which the day's long journey lay—
And sees by that departing light,
Which wanes so fast on field and meadow,
How distant objects still are bright,
When nearer things have sunk in shadow;

"E'en so the mind's enquiring eye
Looks backward through the mist of years,
When, in its vast variety,
The checquered map of life appears;
And e'en when joy's declining rays
Have ceased to paint the path before her,
The sunshine of her youthful days
Still casts a cheering influence o'er her."
Anon

It was now the year 1793, and just thirty years since the first establishment of the school at Sedgley Park. Mr. Southworth had presided

over it for twelve years, with great prudence and ability, and why he so earnestly desired to retire from the presidentship, and had even "an insuperable objection to remain any longer "head master," can hardly now be imagined. Rev. T. M. McDonnell in his Memoir of Mr. Southworth in the Orthodox Journal, 1816, p. 346, speaks of "his health requiring repose." Another reason, however, may be conjectured. There had been, as already stated, many changes in the office of spiritual director, or chaplain; and it is not improbable that Mr. Southworth felt serious difficulties arising out of these changes. And if, as Dr. Weedall considers, he had a peculiar vocation to conduct the spiritual department, his ready acquiescence in Mr. Kirk's stipulation, that he should remain in charge of spirituals, is easily accounted for.

The school was, by this time, greatly increased, and firmly established. Many priests had now come over from Douay and other English Colleges abroad, to labour on the English Mission, who had begun their education at Sedgley Park. Many more were moving respectably in various ranks and professions, who had been scholars at this valuable establishment. The number of boys, when Mr. Kirk began his presidentship, amounted to about one hundred and thirty.

It was either in 1792 or 3, but most probably in 1793, that James Simkiss first came to the

He removed soon after to Old Hall Green, and in 1802 became chaplain at the Park. He had been in business in Wolverhampton, and was grown up when he came; but was admitted through the interest of Mr. Carter, the priest at Wolverhampton. Simkiss was a general favourite with the boys. He used to play the violin, and sing songs for the amusement of the boys; and one of the masters, Mr. James Baines, used to dance a hornpipe in the playroom, while Simkiss fiddled. slender figure of Simkiss in his wide Dutchfashioned breeches was very remarkable. This Mr. Baines afterwards lived at Goosnargh, near Preston; and about the year 1804, he obtained, by the interest of Rev. Dr. Oliver, the situation of schoolmaster at Irnham, in Lincolnshire, and died at Bourn, near Irnham, in January, 1856, while these pages were writing, at the advanced age of 84.

The annual pension at this time was fifteen guineas, with one guinea entrance, and another half guinea entrance for those who were to learn Latin. Boys were admitted from the age of six to fourteen. If parents wished to find their children's clothes, the pension was twelve guineas a year, and half a guinea entrance to Latin. Parlour boarders were admitted at twenty-five pounds a year, with the usual charge of half a guinea entrance to Latin. They were also to find themselves in clothes, books, and all

extras. Postage, dancing, drawing, and French, were charged as extra expenses. A penny a week was given to each boy as pocket money; no other money being allowed but at the discretion of the president. These were the chief terms of the school, as they were first inserted by Mr. Southworth in the Directory for 1793. Mr. Kirk continued the same advertisement of terms in the Directories for 1794 and 1795, but in the latter year the pension was raised from fifteen guineas to seventeen, and thus it continued till the year 1800, when the high prices of every thing rendered it necessary to increase the pension still farther to twenty pounds.

Very soon after his instalment as president, Mr. Kirk made important additions and improvements. He built, in 1793 or 4, a wing at the east end, at right angles with the old stable wing, and connected with it, but extending into the "Big Garden" behind the house. comprised the cobblers' and tailors' shops on the ground floor, and the master tailor's rooms above them, where the boys' clothes were kept, and over these another dormitory; but the eastern part of this building was erected after Mr. Kirk's time. He also essentially promoted the healthful exercise of the boys, by building the ball-place in the "Bounds." The row of fir trees, which long adorned the upper end of the "Bounds," probably owed their existence to good Mr. Harbut, who planted the lime

trees, but the fir trees were planted later, probably in 1793. These fir trees were not only ornamental, but to the boys eminently useful, as affording greater facilities of entrapping birds, who would settle upon them, and be attracted to the traps which used to be set along the palings behind the gardens, which terminated the "Bounds" towards the north. Thus there was much regret and prediction of diminished bird catching, when these trees, for some reason or other were afterwards cut down, as already stated, in the year 1807 or 8. The gloomy anticipation was realised; for the boys from that time caught much fewer birds than before.

Another great convenience was contrived by Mr. Kirk, which was the bath at the end of the well-known "Bath Field." Taking advantage of a fine clear spring, Mr. Kirk made a circular bath, lined and capped with stone, and paved with large flat stones at bottom. The fates of this bath were various. At first, no doubt, it was much frequented, but for many years afterwards it was suffered to fall into utter neglect. It was cleaned out, however, and used very diligently afterwards for a short time, till it was again gradually forsaken and neglected, and was finally broken up a few years ago, so that not a trace of it now remains.

Many improvements were also made in various parts of the establishment, which contributed materially to the comfort of its inmates. Mr.

Kirk gave a respectable appearance to the interior of the main building, the "High House," by painting, papering, and furnishing the principal rooms. He also fitted a carpet to the "Big Staircase," where he found brass loops ready fixed, which had served in the former days of the mansion for the same purpose; and he cut off all communication with the east wing by the "Big Stairs" and the white room, which before and after his time was a thoroughfare which subjected the superiors in their rooms to constant noise and interruption.

This room was not boarded off for a passage, and utterly spoiled for a sitting-room, till several years after, about the year 1805 or 6. Mr. Kirk also opened the small window in the staircase partition going up to the dormitory from the playroom. It answered the double purpose of lighting the staircase, and affording a means of inspection over the study place, which was then one open room.

To reward merit, and excite emulation and application to study, Mr. Kirk introduced the very laudable custom of conferring medals once a year, at Christmas, on two or three boys of each "Study," who should be recommended by their master for general good behaviour and diligence in learning during the past twelve months. The medal bore most appropriately on the obverse a bold, correct, and well-executed representation of the school, as it then appeared,

with the buildings erected by the two presidents, Messrs. Kendal and Southworth. Above, are the words: "Sedgley Park," in large capitals, and below: "Established in 1762," which it has been above explained should have been 1763. The artist has covered the "Bounds" with turf, but there was grass only in the centre at that date. The reverse of the medal bears a very graceful and classical design of a Roman tripod, with an olive branch on either side, beautifully formed, and both united by a fillet below. This Mr. Kirk adopted from a silver medal which he himself had received at Rome from the hand of Cardinal Corsini, the Protector of the English College. Above, appears the inscription: "The Reward of Merit." Mr. Kirk observed, long afterwards, in a letter to the writer, that the introduction of this medal " certainly had a good effect on the studies and "conduct of the boys." Bishop Milner used to give it himself at the Christmas "Examens," in the "Big Parlour," which greatly enhanced its value and the honour of receiving it.

Among the arrivals about this period, a few distinguished names must be recorded. Robert Richmond came in, or about, the year 1788; Joseph Bowdon, about 1790; Francis Martyn, in 1790; and Henry Weedall, December 11, 1794. On his arrival, the masters were Messrs. Harbut, Sumner, Thos. Richmond, Daniel, and Yates. Mr. Kirk had presided over the school

with great ability, "benignant and paternal, but firm and prudent," for rather more than four years and a half, when he was requested by Bishop Berington to remove to his lordship's residence at Longbirch, near Wolverhampton, to act as his secretary and chaplain, and to take charge of the small congregation of Longbirch. The Right Rev. Charles Berington, Bishop of Hierocæsarea, had succeeded Dr. Thomas Talbot, Bishop of Acon, as Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District, on the death of that prelate, which took place at Bristol, February 24th, 1795. It was in consequence of the death of his secretary, Rev. John Wright, which occurred on the 23rd of July, 1797, that Bishop Berington requested Mr. Kirk to supply his place. To this Mr. Kirk consented, and resigned the presidentship of Sedgley Park again to Mr. Southworth, November 11th or 12th.

The above is related from Mr. Kirk's own account of the transaction, in a letter to the writer. But it is proper to mention that there are good grounds for believing that he had for some time been desirous of resigning his office of president. In a letter to him, the Rev. John C. Eustace, his intimate friend, remonstrates very strongly with him for persisting in his resolution to resign. He calls it a "silly resolution," and eloquently contrasts the "power, the independence, the dignity" of his position, with the "insignificance, the servility, the

abjection" inseparable from the situation on which he was about to enter. He alludes to the reasons assigned by Mr. Kirk for wishing to resign-namely, his "extensive correspondence, complicated business, and rural affairs," and to overcome these, advises him to employ an assistant, and reserve to himself only a general inspection, and particular consideration of the more important cases. From which it certainly appears, that when the Bishop requested him to become his chaplain and secretary at Longbirch, he required no great persuasion to accept the offer. Bishop Berington did not long survive. On the 8th of June, in the following year, 1798, returning on horseback with Mr. Kirk from Sedgley Park, where they had dined, he was suddenly attacked with a fit of apoplexy, coming down the hill out of Wolverhampton, on the Stafford road; and being with difficulty helped off his horse by his chaplain, and led to the bank by the road side, he died there, and Mr. Kirk had only just time to give him absolution. This melancholy event caused the greatest consternation at the Park, whence the prelate had been seen to depart in perfect health.

Mr. Kirk remained at Longbirch till 1801, when he removed to Lichfield, where he passed the long remainder of his useful and indefatigable life, frequently visiting, to use his own expression, "dear" Sedgley Park, and ever studying to promote its interests with enduring

attachment. Ten years before his death, he received from Rome the diploma of DD., and at length departed this life on the night of December 21st, 1851, in the 92nd year of his age.

"Fate seemed to wind him up for fourscore years, Yet freshly ran he on ten Winters more:
Till, like a clock, worn out with eating time,
The wheels of weary life at last stood still."

Dryden.

A beautiful and feeling memoir of him appeared, as already mentioned, shortly after his death, from the pen of a most distinguished Parker, Monsignore Weedall, to which the reader is referred for his subsequent history. His portrait, an admirable likeness, by Mackey, hangs on the staircase at Sedgley Park, opposite to that of Mr. Kendal. His merits were undoubtedly great, yet, it must be owned, of that character which "rather enforces respect "than attracts fondness."\*

## CHAPTER SEVENTH.

MR. HURST, CHAPLAIN—MASTERS AT THIS TIME—NEW CHAPEL BUILT, AND PLAYROOM LENGTHENED—CHAPEL DESCRIBED—CONFIRMATION BY BISHOP STAPLETON—ARRIVALS OF NOTED BOYS—NOTICES OF MR. JINKS AND MR. JOSEPH HUNT.

"The happy dreams of that sweet age, of that golden hour in the human course, when the rosy light of each morning brings with it fresh undaunted hope, the expectation of something still more worthy of the sentiment of life than any past experience of splendour or of joy."

ORLANDUS, XXIII.

In the month of November then of the year 1797, as already stated, Mr. Southworth resumed his former position and dignity, as president of Sedgley Park. His office of chaplain was filled by Rev. William Harris, from Rome, who remained at the Park five years. He came into the refectory to take leave of the boys, on his departure for the mission of Osgodby, in Lincolnshire, where he died, November 10, 1823.

At Midsummer, 1798, Mr. Joseph Hunt, returned to the Park as a master, and found the following masters there when he came: Messrs. Harbut and Thomas Richmond, as before, with

Messrs. John Sumner, Thomas Yates, Thomas Evans, and Thomas Daniel. Mr. T. Richmond left in 1800. Mr. Evans also left in that year, and went to reside at Tamworth. Mr. Daniel also left. Mr. Thomas Howell succeeded Mr. Thomas Richmond as Latin and French master. Mr. Lees, of Gunston, came, as also Mr. Joseph Howell, of Walton Bank, brother of Thomas, Mr. Henry Worthy, and Mr. Robert Singleton.

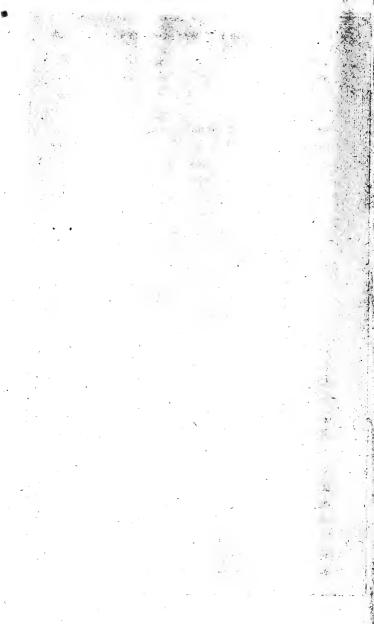
The chapel, all this time, had been the long room, built for the purpose, as before described, by Mr. Kendal. But the great increase of the school, besides due consideration for the more solemn and decorous performance of the sacred offices of religion, induced Mr. Southworth, soon after he had resumed the presidentship. to plan a larger and more appropriate chapel. The playroom, also, which Mr. Kendal had made, was now much too small for the number of boys, when they were obliged to be all there in bad weather and in the dark evenings, or in genuine Park phrase, at "In-for-dark." Mr. Southworth, therefore, resolved upon an additional building, to be placed at the end of the playroom. The original wing at the east end had hitherto remained precisely as it was when the school was opened, more than thirty years before. In the centre, however, the old doorway had been bricked up, so as to prevent all communication from the "Bounds," but the window in the upper part of it remained.

On each side, as before stated, it had two windows below, and there were two above these, with another over the doorway, forming an upper row of five windows, two of which, however, were blank. All these were now blocked up, as it was intended that the additional building should stand in front of the old wing, and conceal it altogether. It was commenced by Mr. Southworth, in the year 1800, a good beginning of the new century,—and finished the year following.

The architect was Mr. Dadford, of Wolverhampton, and Mr. Tay executed the work as builder and carpenter. When the chapel wall had reached its full height, the masters were anxious to mark their initials on the bricks forming the uppermost row of the wall, and each paid a shilling for the honour of cutting his initials on a brick, and laying it in its place. They are the following, and are visible to this day: J. H., twice over, for Joseph Hunt and Joseph Howell; T. H., Thomas Howell; T. Y., Thomas Yates; T. D., Thomas Daniel; T. E., Thomas Evans.

This building consists of a playroom below, at the extremity of which is a small room, which was afterwards used as a study place, and over the playroom a beautiful and spacious chapel. The two playrooms were thrown together, by which ample space was obtained for the boys to play, when confined within doors.

SEDGLEY PARK,



The building being twice the breadth of the old playroom, projects some way into the "Bounds," and in the corner thus formed inside, stood the staircase, by which the boys went up to the chapel from the playroom, and those few who formed the little congregation from the houses in the Lane, used to pass through the playroom in like manner on Sundays, and so entered the chapel, as did also the men servants. The chapel is broad and well proportioned, and was made as handsome and convenient as most of our domestic chapels were in those times, and long afterwards. No pretensions were made to architectural display, and indeed it was a considerable advance in those days to venture upon something like Gothic windows, though of a very homely character, when a Catholic chapel could hardly be made at all conspicuous with safety. It is lighted by three large windows on the side of the "Bounds," but could have no windows on the other side, from its position; so that it has always been inconveniently hot in warm weather, for want of thorough ventilation. A small square opening in the centre of the opposite wall was afterwards made for the sick to hear Mass, and this afforded some little ventilation through the opposite window in the "Latin study."

The sanctuary was railed off by plain baluster rails, and entered by a gate of a Chinese pattern. The corners of the sanctuary were each

enclosed by a semicircular partition, so as to form two small sacristies. At first, these partitions did not reach up to the ceiling, but the inconvenience of this was soon felt, and they were carried up the entire height of the walls. The altar was an oblong square, with an antependium of painted and gilt leather, in the style which prevailed in all our chapels at the time, and of which many specimens still remain, though it would be difficult to find one so rich and tasteful as this which still hangs before the altar at Sedgley Park. The skill of the old drawing master, Mr. Richard Paddey, was put in requisition for the altar-piece, which was a copy of West's well known Last Supper. It was fixed in an arched recess behind the altar. Though rather a dark painting, and in a dark situation, it really had a very good effect; it was solemn, and inspired devout sentiments, as such a picture should. Many an old Parker will recollect the pleasing and soothing effect which was produced at Night Prayers in the height of summer, when the last rays of sunset used to play upon that representation of the Last Supper, and the flickering foliage of the elms and young lime trees heightened the effect upon the picture.

'Twas the last red ray of the setting sun,
And it gleamed on the painted wall,
And told that another bright day was done,
And had vanished beyond recal.

On a pictured scene that last ray fell
Of Christ's mild form divine,
On that evening with those he loved so well,
O'er the altar's hallowed shrine.

'Twas the chapel where many a heavenly thought, And many a contrite sigh,

Sweet peace to the youthful heart had brought, And joy that is born on high.

'Twas the hour of prayer, the affecting hour, When we knelt to adore and praise,

And in hymns to the glorious God of power Our grateful hearts to raise.

'Twas the thought of youth, life's Springtide time, That vision for ever fled.

When the buds of life ere they reached their prime All around a rich fragrance shed.

It was each and all that entranced the eye
In a fond and stedfast gaze,

That heaved the breast with the deep drawn sigh For the long departed days.

O remembrance will with saddening truth Life's wasting cares among, Turn fondly back to the joys of youth,

And the spot where we once were young.

Of this remarkable effect, Mr. Foley was as sensible as every Parker of the time; for when the lime trees grew thick together this beautiful light was no longer produced. These are Mr. Foley's words on the subject: "You were "talking about the evening light upon the Park "altar-piece. I can fancy that it has left an "indelible recollection on many a mind. I never

"see a similar occurrence at eventide without "vivid and fond recollections of that tremulous "light, made tremulous by the waving of elm "boughs through which the light passed."

On the altar stood a very elegant tabernacle, carved and gilt all over, of admirable design and well executed, surmounted by an ivory crucifix, the cross being of ebony, with the foot inlaid with red tortoiseshell. Three plated candlesticks, shaped as Corinthian columns, stood on either side of the tabernacle, and between them, on week days, very substantial and ornamental vases of blue and white china, for which were substituted gilt vases of wood with artificial flowers on Sundays and festivals. At first, for Mass on week days a candle was lighted on either side in a brass branch fitted at the end of the altar; but afterwards, a double branch was fixed against the wall on each side, and one candle lighted in each. Two credence tables were covered with white fluted muslin drapery, and had a very chaste appearance. The chapel was lighted in the evenings, and dark winter mornings, by two chandeliers of brass, each having six branch lights. The windows were three, as already described, and all on the north side. Each was divided into four compartments, the lower one on the right side of each made to open by hinges below, so that the casement fell back, and the opening was regulated by a pin fixed at discretion at the side. The body of the

SEDGLEY PARK CHAPEL.



chapel contained three rows of benches for the boys, made of plain deal, unpainted, which served equally for kneeling and sitting, and had room for the boys' books in front. There were benches for the masters raised higher, and placed at intervals down the middle, with cushions to kneel upon, covered with blue mo-The maid-servants knelt at the bottom of the chapel on the Epistle side, and the men on the opposite side, and below the middle row. The cushions to their benches were covered with yellow moreen. A tribune was raised two steps above the chapel floor for the superiors, and strangers, as well as to accommodate a few who formed the little out-door congregation. Such was the original appearance and arrangement of the chapel; other ornaments were added later, but the walls at first were painted of a light blue colour, and without any decoration, picture, or ornament.

The chapel was opened early in 1801, but the precise day of opening has not been recorded, nor is it likely that any solemnity was observed at the opening. Little was known in those days of ceremonial; and probably the chapel was blessed and used as a matter of course on the first Sunday after it was ready for opening, with merely the plain usual Sunday service, which for many long years afterwards was without singing or any kind of solemnity. The chapel is dedicated to England's glorious

patron, St. George. Soon after the opening, however, the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered there in the same year, 1801, by Bishop Stapleton. This prelate, Dr. Gregory Stapleton, had been president of St. Omer's and Old Hall Green Colleges, was consecrated March 8, 1801, Bishop of Hierocæsarea, and succeeded Dr. Charles Berington as Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District. During the interval of nearly three years, from Dr. Berington's death, the District had been governed by Dr. Bew, the Vicar General, residing at Oscott. Bishop Stapleton brought with him to the episcopal residence at Longbirch, the Rev. Thomas Walsh, then deacon, as his secretary, and having ordained him priest, gave him charge of the mission there.

Some memorable arrivals of boys about this time deserve mention. William Foley came in 1799, whose name will appear later in intimate connexion with the establishment. William Wareing, first and only Vicar Apostolic of the Eastern District, and afterwards the first Bishop of Northampton, came to Sedgley Park, May 4, 1801. Thomas McDonnell came February 1st, 1802; who was many years the missioner at St. Peter's, Birmingham, and is now at Shortwood, in Somersetshire. The next day came John Briggs, with his elder brother. They remained at the Park till the latter part of 1804, when they left together. John became a priest,

and was the missioner at Chester. He was appointed Bishop of Trachis, and coadjutor to Bishop Penswick, by whom he was consecrated at Ushaw, June 29, 1833, and having been successively Vicar Apostolic of the Northern District, and Vicar Apostolic of the District of Yorkshire, was appointed, on the restoration of our Hierarchy in 1840, the first Bishop of Beverley. His brother who came with him, and two other boys, Ford and Storey, made the number of boys 160. The masters at this time were Messrs. Sumner, Hunt, Lees, Singleton, and Rimmer. Mr. Lees became a priest, and was talked of as likely to succeed Mr. Harris, at Osgodby, in 1823, but Mr. Hayes became his successor. George Jinks came in December, 1801. He remained unusually long at Sedgley Park, having been engaged in teaching during the latter part of the time. He left it for Oscott College, at Christmas, 1814. He was ordained priest in 1820, and in 1822 appointed to the mission at Hathersage, where he laboured till his early death, by consumption, August 29, 1833, in the 40th year of his age. A memoir of him appeared in the Catholic Magazine in that year, and some lines to his memory, both by his intimate friend, the present writer, who may be pardoned a short quotation from the latter.

"Like the refulgent sun thou camest forth,
Exulting in life's morn with giant strength,
To run, as then we hoped, a giant's course:
But like that orb, when in his glorious noon
Quenched by an envious cloud, thou too hast sunk,
Thy noontide power and splendour scarce attained."

Thus then, the second presidentship of Mr. Southworth had begun, with the important addition to the establishment of a really beautiful chapel, and the healthful and convenient enlargement of the boys' play-room.

At Michaelmas, 1802, Mr. Joseph Hunt finally left Sedgley Park. At the time of writing these pages, this venerable old Park Master is still living, and in the unimpaired enjoyment of his mental faculties, though suffering much from infirmity and chronic rheumatism. He was born at Stoke, near Stone, in Staffordshire, April 16, 1776, and is probably the oldest Parker now living, and may the life of this worthy man be yet prolonged!

The school now flourished in full growth and vigour, and efficiency, and as this history proceeds, it will fully bear out the testimony to Mr. Southworth, by his worthy predecessor, Mr. Kirk, that "during his presidency the "school flourished more than at any former "period."

## CHAPTER EIGHTH.

THE AUTHOR'S ARRIVAL AT THE PARK—SUPERIORS AND MASTERS—DEATH OF BISHOP STAPLETON—APPOINTMENT OF BISHOP MILNER—DEPARTURE OF MR. SIMKISS—MR. WALSH, CHAPLAIN—CHAPEL SERVICES—RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION—PRAYER BOOKS AND OTHER SPIRITUAL BOOKS IN USE AT SEDGLEY PARK.

"And other days come back on me

" With recollected music, though the tone

" Is changed and solemn, like the cloudy groan

" Of dying thunder on the distant wind."

Byron.

Thus far the present history has been written from what the writer heard in his youth, and collected at various periods from others; the rest will be related from his own knowledge and experience. For he came first to Sedgley Park at five o'clock on Monday Evening, April 25, 1803; and never since that day has he been any long time without visiting the "old place," or failed to treasure up interesting circumstances of its subsequent history. "It has been remarked," says our great moralist, "that old "men are generally narrative, and fall easily

"into recitals of past transactions, and accounts
"of persons known to them in their youth."
And though the writer has not yet fully reached
that time which "comes at last,....in which
"happiness can be drawn only from recollection,"\* he feels that recollection does furnish
now by far the greater portion of his happiness
as regards the things of this world; and, with
Hugo of St. Victor, he is ready to exclaim:
"O ancient time, where art thou? Formerly,
"while thou existed, I loved thee, and now
"when thou hast ceased to exist, I love thee
"still; nor can thy departure ever diminish
"my love for thee."
†

In the year 1803, the superiors and masters were the following: the Rev. Thomas Southworth, President; Rev. James Simkiss, Vice-President and Chaplain; Rev. Joseph Birch, afterwards President, who taught Greek, Latin, and French; Mr. Joseph Harbut, Procurator; and Messrs. Sumner, Eldridge, Worthy, Singleton, Cleminshaw, and Wilson, masters. The episcopacy of Dr. Stapleton was very short. He was consecrated March 8, 1801, and before a year had elapsed, he retired to France, and died at St. Omer, May 23, 1802, having been the last president of the English College there before the French Revolution. Another year elapsed before his successor was

<sup>\*</sup> Johnson-The Rambler, No. 41.

<sup>†</sup> De Vanitate mundi, Lib. II.

appointed. Then, however, the District was blessed, and the prosperity of Sedgley Park secured, by the nomination of the Rev. John Milner to the See of Castabala in partibus, and to the Apostolic Vicariate of the Midland District in England. He was consecrated, May 22, 1803, in his chapel at Winchester, by Bishop Douglas. Both these prelates elect said Mass on the Sunday before the consecration of Dr. Milner, May 15th, at the chapel in Wolverhampton,—Dr. Poynter saying the Mass at eight, and Dr. Milner at ten o'clock. Dr. Milner came at once to live at Longbirch, where his predecessors had resided; but in the following year removed to Giffard House, in Wolverhampton, which was his residence till his death. Thus had Sedgley Park the honour and gratification of seeing one who had received his early education within her walls, promoted to the episcopacy, the first bishop of her sons, and immediately charged with the care and protection of his Alma mater, "the great, the illustrious, the immortal Milner."

Bishop Milner, on his part, felt a true filial affection for the Park. He always studied its interests, supported it by his patronage, honoured it frequently by his visits, improved it in a variety of ways, and ever styled it, "that nursery of the English priesthood." He gave Confirmation soon after his first arrival in the District, in the chapel at Sedgley Park, on SS.

Peter and Paul, 1803. It will be recollected by old Parkers, as it is vividly by the writer, when he came to pay his first visit to his old beloved school, how we gathered down at the rails to gaze at the new bishop, and salute him as he dashed along on his grey charger, in the plain attire which he always preferred, and wearing a drab great coat, with broad capes.

It has been mentioned above, that Bishop Stapleton's chaplain and secretary, at Longbirch, was the Rev. Thomas Walsh. Bishop Milner retained him, on his arrival in the District, in the same capacity; but in the year following, on his removing to Wolverhampton, he placed Mr. Walsh in the important situation of spiritual director at Sedgley Park, knowing how well qualified he was for that responsible position.

In the month of March, 1803, the Rev. John Carter died at Wolverhampton. He was buried at Bishbury Church, the usual place of interment at that time for Catholics. His epitaph was composed by Rev. Joseph Berington; but it has two faults, it is in English, and too long. Mr. Carter's tombstone was cleaned and restored in 1829. He was succeeded by Rev. Morgan D'Arcy, who remained only till the latter part of 1804, when the Rev. Walter Blount became pastor of Wolverhampton, who was afterwards president of Sedgley Park.

Dr. Milner appointed Mr. Simkiss to the mission at Sixhills, in Lincolnshire; who repaired thither in October, 1804, having been chaplain at the Park only two years. He was the first priest who had been educated entirely in England since Catholic days. At Sixhills first, and afterwards at Hainton, a short distance from it, Mr. Simkiss resided till the close of his long life. On the formation of the new Eastern District, in 1840, he became one of the Grand Vicars of Bishop Wareing; and soon after the re-establishment of the Hierarchy in 1850, when Cathedral Chapters were erected, he was nominated, by Bishop Hendren, the first Provost of the Chapter of Nottingham. death took place on the 24th of December, 1855, at Hainton, when he had just completed the 84th year of his age. While at Sedgley Park, his fondness for the exact sciences led him to erect, from a design of his own, a very ingenious sundial in the form of a cross, made of wood, but covered with copper. This stood on a stone pedestal at the south-east corner of the "Big Garden," where it remained long after. But it was neglected, suffered to get loose and out of order, and finally removed, much to the regret of those who knew it in its first beauty and usefulness.

The opening of the new chapel does not appear to have given any new impulse to the religious services, which were of the most

simple character. So much so, that the boys who served Mass wore neither surplices nor cassocks, even on Sundays, but appeared in their ordinary clothes. The vestments used were very neat, particularly the best white and red, but plain; and not one had any richer trimming than silk lace. On Sundays, and Days of Obligation, there was a Mass at eight o'clock, said by the president. The principal service followed at ten o'clock by the chaplain. It began by the English Prayers, usually known as the Wolverhampton Prayers, from their having been long used in the chapel there. They were printed at the end of a book of octavo size, prepared by Rev. John Carter and Rev. John Kirk, and printed by Smart, at Wolverhampton, in 1800. This book was entitled: "Gother's Prayers for Sundays and " Festivals, adapted to the use of Private Fami-"lies or Congregations. To which is added, "An Appendix, containing Prayers before and "after Mass, and some Evening Devotions." It is taken almost entirely from Gother, but with the addition of Answers to the Sunday Prayers, where they were wanting in the original. Afterwards Bishop Milner substituted at Wolverhampton his own beautiful "Exercise for sanctifying Sundays, &c.," and the former Prayers were discontinued there. So attached, however, were many of the congregation to them, that the "Flat Book,"

as it was called, was long after slyly taken to chapel by the old women under their cloaks.

These prayers, before and after Mass, had been previously used as they were printed in the old edition of the Garden of the Soul, but with only one Litany, that for the Autumn Quarter. Three more were added in the new collection, two from Gother's Prayers for Sundays and Holidays, and the other from the old favourite prayer book of English Catholics, the Manual. After these prayers, the priest read the Epistle and Gospel, and either preached, or read a sermon. A low Mass followed, and the service ended with the prayers after Mass in the collection already mentioned. In the afternoon, at three o'clock, Vespers were said, and those boys, who had books and could read the Latin, recited them alternately with the priest. Then followed the Prayers for the current Sunday in the "Flat Book" already described, and the service concluded with a catechetical instruction by the chaplain. On great Festivals, Benediction was given, but without music or singing, and with a very plain ceremonial. The only time when any singing had been introduced was on one occasion, in the year 1805, when Bishop Milner gave Confirmation, and his lordship invited, from Wolverhampton, the worthy Mr. Jones, and two of his sons, Clement and James, who sang the Litany of Loretto, and some other pieces, but without any instrument. except a pitch pipe, to give the note, which pipe startled and rather amused the boys. The excellent Mr. Jones was the father of a saintly family, and five of his six sons became priests. Some time afterwards some of the boys were taught and practised in Gregorian music, by Mr. McStay, who used to assemble them in the "Study" at the end of the playroom.

When Benediction was given, the crucifix was removed from the Tabernacle, and a small shelf drawn out from the upper part of it, on which was placed a corporal, and a white muslin veil hung down in front, on which was worked in purple thread the sacred monogram, IHS, encircled with rays of glory. Even then the priest wore no cope, and it is doubtful if there was one in the entire District, and if he used any humeral veil, it has escaped the recollection of the writer; nor was there more than a single acolyth, a distinguished ecclesiastic, still living, who knelt on the epistle side in his ordinary clothes, to receive the thurible from good Mr. Harbut, which he handed to the boy over the rails. It was brought all the way from the kitchen fire, and was usually almost without heat when it reached the chapel. He returned it in the same manner after the incensing; and the O Salutaris and Tantum Ergo were simply recited in Latin, with the Benediction Hymns in English, as they occur in the Garden of the

Soul, or the Litany of the Blessed Sacrament. This was the whole of our humble ceremonial in those early days of reviving Religion in the land where she had been so long and so cruelly proscribed and persecuted. Yet what old Parker "has not experienced the "associations connected with it. To how many "minds does it recal the sweetest years of "mortal existence, the recollections of youth, "and the thousand circumstances of early life, "which derive such a secret charm from "\* the very simplicity of such a ceremonial?

On Sundays and Holidays, there were at first no public Night Prayers, because the evening Examination of Conscience formed originally the latter part of the Afternoon Service. But when the new chapel was opened, Night Prayers were said at eight o'clock; but they consisted only of the beautiful form of "Thanksgiving and Examination of Conscience," at the end of the "Flat Book," and no lecture from Challoner's Meditations followed, as on week days.

During the week, there was Mass at half-past seven every morning, or nearly so. It happened occasionally that "Morning Prayers" were substituted, which consisted of the Morning Exercise in the *Garden of the Soul*, after which the boys had about a quarter of an hour to read any spiritual books, or say private

<sup>\*</sup> Mores Catholici, Book v., Ch. 3.

prayers, till a signal was given from the tribune, when a boy in his turn said the Angelus aloud, and all departed. When Mass was said, it was preceded by the Litany of Jesus, or that of Loretto, and after Mass, a short lesson was read from that excellent book, too little valued in these days, the "Practical Reflections;" and a boy said the Angelus, as above described. On Days of Devotion, the priest, who said the Mass, read at the rails before Mass, the Instruction for the Feast, from "Gother's Instructions on Feasts," another good old book, which has been most unaccountably suffered to go almost into disuse, though no work can be named in any language so abounding in sound practical instruction, and so well calculated to enable a Christian to follow in devout commemoration and practice, the spirit and intention of the various festivals, and other solemn days, as they occur throughout the year.\*

Night prayers were said at a quarter before eight; but on Sundays and Holidays at eight. On week days, they began with the Litany of the Saints, on Mondays and Fridays; on Wednesdays, the Universal Prayer, or *Miserere* Psalm, and Litany of Loretto; on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the same Litany, but on the

<sup>\*</sup> In the hope of bringing this most excellent book again into use in our churches and chapels, it was republished some years back, by the writer, with some additions, adapted to the present calendar, under the title of "Gother's Daily Lessons."

latter, with the addition of the Hymn of St. Bernard, and on Saturdays, the Litany of Loretto. These were followed by the Examination of Conscience in the Garden of the Soul, and after a boy had said the Angelus, one of Challoner's Meditations was read for a conclusion. In Lent, however, and on the Ember Days, and Days of Devotion, Gother's Prayers were said instead of a Litany. The worthy Mr. Harbut acted as sacristan, and occasionally read Night Prayers, if it happened that no priest was at home. He invariably stood at the door, opening from the playroom stairs, to see that all came into the chapel with becoming reverence, and equally attended to the boys as they left the chapel, seeing that each made a proper genuflexion. It was often a boy's delight to offer the good and venerable man on a Sunday, a "crop," the Park name for a nosegay, or else a single flower, particularly a yellow lupin of at least nine rows, which he would accept with a smile, and place in the button holes of his coat; it being quite the fashion of that day to wear a nosegay on a Sunday. How well remembered is his tall spare figure, his venerable head with flowing gray hair; his dress, a long brown coat, yellow and black striped waistcoat, and drab breeches and gaiters, with silver buckles in his wellblacked shoes, and a red handkerchief invariably held in his lame right hand.

The chaplain, besides catechising on Sundays, gave instructions on one or two days during the week in the chapel, having one large class at a time, from half-past eleven o'clock till twelve. Besides this, the boys said catechism every morning, from a quarter before seven till Mass, at half-past seven. Particular spiritual instructions were also given in the chaplain's room in the evenings, before Night Prayers, to those who were preparing for first Confession or to make their first Communion, or for Confirmation. The catechisms in use were the First, and Second, or Douay Catechism, with Fleury's Historical Catechism, and for the more advanced, the "Grounds of Catholic Doctrine," by Bishop Challoner. In the highest Study, the same author's admirable little "Abstract of the History of the Old and New Testament," was learned on Saturday afternoons, a book always highly esteemed and recommended by Bishop Milner. The Prayer Books used were, first and above all, the Garden of the Soul. The old edition, by Bishop Challoner himself was used, till Mr. Southworth had a new edition printed, at Wolverhampton, in 1801; in the short preface to which he informs the reader, that "this new edition of a work so "valuable, has not been altered from its original "form, but correctly given from the printed "copy of its author, the late venerable Bishop "Challoner. He humbly hopes that, as nothing

" has been taken away, so he shall not be blamed "for much that has been added." The additions chiefly consisted of the appendix containing the Prayers before and after Mass, given in the enlarged form, as published in the preceding year, at Wolverhampton. These were also stitched up separately, for use in the Park Chapel, and known as the "Ten o'clock Prayer Book." Our other Prayer Books were the Single or Half Manual, and the Double or Whole Manual, as they were called, and which had long been so cherished by our pious ancestors; also the Key of Heaven, the Christian's Guide to Heaven, and Gother's Methods of Hearing Mass, with the favourite old Daily Companion, and the Daily Exercise for Children, with cuts of the different ceremonies of the Mass, so useful for fixing the attention of children, and giving them an early knowledge of the Holy Sacrifice. It is to be regretted that some of these favourite old Prayer Books have now entirely disappeared, and others are sadly altered from their original form. Yet they were composed and used by holy and interior men; and there is reason to distrust "a "passion for changing and modifying ancient "things. Impelled by a desire to do some-"thing, a shallow, conceited, restless intelligence "will seek to distinguish itself by reforming, as "it pretends, the reliques of a less enlightened "age; and, indeed, it would almost seem, as if "in a certain stage of society, taffeta phrases, "silken terms precise, had a greater charm for "the cultivated class, than the noblest sentences "of a Chrysostom, or the most majestic symbol "of the Catholic Liturgy."\*

Every encouragement was given to devotion and piety at that spot, which has been ever so remarkable for the sound religious instruction, and the singular innocence and purity of morals of the youths trained up in its happy precincts. Some spiritual book was read aloud by the watch master to the boys, seated round the playroom, twice every Sunday and Holiday, for half an hour after breakfast, and for about the same time before dinner. At the second time of spiritual reading, any boy who asked leave might go up into the chapel, and spend the half-hour in private devotion or reading pious books; and many were accustomed to do this. Religious books were lent out to them by the chaplain in considerable variety; such as Gobinet's Instruction of Youth, Butler's Lives of the Saints,-Memoirs of Missionary Priests, Muratori's Missions of Paraguay, Bonaventure's Parables,—Think well on't—The Sinner's Guide, Difference between the Temporal and the Eternal,—Memorial of a Christian Life—the works of Bishop Hornyold, The Following of Christ,—Introduction to a Devout Life—Life of the Venerable Benedict Joseph Labre-Lives

<sup>\*</sup> Mores Catholici, Book v., Ch. 3.

of the Fathers of the Deserts-The Virtuous Scholar,-The Model of Young Men,-Pious Biography,—Rayment's Piety exemplified,— Theophilus,-Reeve's History of the Bible, and History of the Church-Challoner's Catholic Christian Instructed—the Spiritual works of Mr. Gother, and various others, of which it is to be lamented, as in the case of our good old Prayer Books, that too many of them have been long suffered to go out of print, and are not now to be procured at all. Yet these were the works which nourished the piety of our fathers, and our contemporaries. With these aids, under the zealous and vigilant care of their holy spiritual guides, the youths of Sedglev Park were trained early in the way in which they should go, and prepared to fulfil with piety and edification their several duties in after life. Thus instructed and disciplined, how many have gone forth and maintained in the world the credit of that venerable establishment, which had watched as an anxious parent over the frail and fitful season of their youth.

## CHAPTER NINTH.

FRENCH, LATIN, AND GREEK MASTERS—MR. BIRCH—MR. THOMAS HOWELL—MR. McNEAL—STUDY PLACES AND THEIR MASTERS—COURSE OF STUDIES—READING BOOKS—BOOKS IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS—EXAMENS—HOURS OF STUDY—PUNISHMENTS—"FISHING"—PUBLIC SPEAKING—OLD EXHIBITION PAPER—MR. QUICK'S ADDRESS—HIS SUBSEQUENT CAREER, AND DEATH.

"In Scholam redeo, illam dulcissimam ætatem quasi resumo. Sedeo "inter juvenes ut solebam." PLINY.

I go back to School, I resume as it were that sweetest age of life. I sit among youths as I was wont to do.

The number of boys at Sedgley Park at the beginning of the century was about one hundred and fifty. It kept increasing till it once or twice got beyond 200, and once it reached 212, which was in 1810. The scholars were distributed in six "Studies," each under its own master for English. A separate master taught French, Latin, and Greek. This teacher, in 1803, was a very worthy and truly respectable priest, Rev. Joseph Birch, who had succeeded Mr. Thomas Howell in the year 1801, and afterwards adorned the presidential chair. At

this time he attended on Sundays and Holidays the chapel at Moseley Court, near Wolverhampton, and resided at the Park, occupying the room on the left hand, at the top of the "Big Staircase." In a school founded for boys in middle life, mostly destined for commerce, it was not usual for many to learn French, and fewer still learned Latin or Greek. The latter were chiefly those intended for the Church, who were removed afterwards to some College to go through their course of studies for the ecclesiastical state. Thus Mr. Birch had under his care in the year 1804—in French. 28 boys-in Latin, 4-and in Greek, only 2: but, as will be seen, he had only in Latin, those who were more advanced. In the year following he had in French, 32, in Latin, 11—and in Greek, 3. In 1806, his numbers were in French, 34, in Latin, 15, and in Greek, 4. Mr. Birch left the Park in August, 1807, to reside entirely at Moseley. He was succeeded as French, Latin, and Greek master, by Mr. Mark John McNeal, who had studied under him at the Park only three years before, and had been since teaching at the academy at Baddesley Green, near Warwick. The numbers under Mr. McNeal averaged much the same as under Mr. Birch. He had generally about 30 learning French, three or four Latin scholars, two or three Greek, and often none at all. It must be remembered, however, that though he taught

all the French, he had only, like his predecessor, the upper class of Latin, and those few who learned Greek. For the rudiments of Latin were taught successively by Mr. Rimmer, Mr. McStay, and Mr. Robert Richmond; so that the whole number learning Latin was usually between 20 and 30. The last or lowest "Study" in 1803 was under Mr. Ralph Wilson, and held in a small room beyond the Refectory, which was afterwards added to it. The entrance to this "Study" was from the playroom, by a door near the "Big Fireplace." The next "Study" was the first on the left side upstairs, and was under Mr. John Cleminshaw: the next on the same side was that of Mr. Robert Singleton. Then came in order the "Study" by the "Little Parlour" on the right side, the master of which was Mr. Henry Worthy, who had come from Stonyhurst, and succeeded Mr. Lees, in 1802; the next above was under Mr. John Eldridge; and above that was the first "Study," under Mr. John Sumner. These were the six "English Studies," as they were termed. The "Study" on the left hand, nearest the Chapel was the French Study, and served also partly for Latin and Greek. Mr. Robert Richmond came to reside at Sedgley Park, on the 6th of January, 1806, at the invitation of Mr. Southworth, to teach Latin, and assist in the spiritual instruction of the boys, while he also prepared himself for his future

ordination. He began to teach Latin in a room at the end of the playroom, half of which was used also as a study place for the youngest children, first under Michael Tuite, and next under Mr. Horton. But some time after, he had another room fitted up for him with new desks, and known thenceforth as the "Latin Study." Here he usually had three classes studying Latin.

The general education consisted of the usual course of elementary instruction, reading, spelling, meanings of words, grammar, geography, arithmetic, writing, dictation, learning by heart, and English composition. The reading books, beginning with the lowest classes were, as far as can now be recollected, the following: The Reading made Easy,—The Ladder to Learning, consisting of Æsop's Fables, in words of only one syllable,—The Knowledge of Nature, by Mrs. Trimmer,—The Rational Dame, an admirable elementary book of Natural History, long gone out of print,—The Parables of F. Bonaventure, -The Economy of Human Life,-The Arts of Life, a very useful explanation of trades and manufactures, - Fleury's Manners of the Israelites and of the Christians,-The Lookingglass of the Mind, a free adaptation of the Ami des Enfans of Berquin to English stories, always and deservedly a great favourite,-Gay's Fables,-Murray's Introduction, English Reader, and Sequel,-Goldsmith's Histories of Greece and Rome,—The British Classics,— British Nepos,—the Epitome, or small book of Elegant Extracts,—and finally, the large Elegant Extracts in prose, which was the standing book for the first class in the highest "Study." Rollin's Ancient History was also occasionally read.

The Grammars studied were: Louth's Short Introduction to English Grammar, edited by Dr. Ash, -Murray's Introduction and his larger Grammar. For Geography, the useful little Geographical Questions and Answers, with a brief Chronology, &c., used at Eton, followed by Guthrie's large Geographical Grammar. Besides these, there was a MS. compilation, consisting of useful statistics, geographical and historical, of which the boys used to write out copies for their own use, and which in the true style of Park phraseology was called "Funny Stuff." In History we studied Goldsmith's Abridged Histories of England and Rome, and the History of Greece, and afterwards learned, almost by heart, Bicknell's History of England. In Arithmetic, Park boys who were chiefly intended for commerce, were always well taught; and if they remained long enough at school, were carried up to the highest Rules of Arithmetic, and taught Book-keeping by single and double entry, Land-measuring, Geometry, and the Use of the Globes. The books used in French were the simple and very useful

Grammar of Le Fort, with another Book of Exercises, Chambaud's Fables Choisies, Millot's Abregé de l'Histoire Romaine, Telemaque, and Boileau. In Latin, the good old Douay Introduction to the Latin Language, which used to be called the "Figures," for some unknown Thus, when Mr. Robert Richmond began to teach Latin, he stood at the end of the desk where his class of boys were seated; and suspecting that their elementary instruction had been very defective, he began by saving: "Let me see what you know of the Figures." They imagined that he was going to examine them in Arithmetic, and were surprised to find him questioning them in the rudiments of Latin Grammar. After the "Figures," Lilly's Grammar was used; and the authors successively read were the Selectæ e veteri Testamento Historiæ of M. Rollin, Cornelius Nepos, the Selectæ e Profanis, also by Rollin, Cæsar, Sallust, Livy, Cicero, Quintus Curtius, Ovid, and Virgil. In Greek, there were never many students, and no books were read beyond the Greek Testament, Xenophon, and Homer.

Twice a year, that is, at Midsummer and Christmas, the "Examens" were held in the "Big Parlour," till the "Examen Room" was built later on. A few of the priests in the neighbourhood attended, and assisted in examining, and Bishop Milner usually came at the latter part, for the examination of the

highest boys, and particularly to examine them in Catechism and the knowledge of their Religion. He also gave the premiums at Midsummer, and the medals at Christmas; the former to those who had made most proficiency in their classes, and the latter to those who had merited them by general good conduct.

The hours for study were from a quarter before nine till ten, when a quarter was allowed for play; then from a quarter past ten till twelve. In the afternoon, from two o'clock till four, then a quarter's play, and study again from a quarter past four till six. But on Tuesdays and Thursdays there was no study in the afternoons. When the boys went into the "Studies," they were all thrown open, so that the Watch-master perambulated them to preserve order, till each master came into his "Study." They always began by prayer, using for several years a prayer composed by Mr. Kirk, partly borrowed from the well-known prayer of St. Thomas of Aquin. This was, read aloud by one of the boys from a printed copy on a board, which he held before him. It was afterwards discontinued as being too long and formal, and the "Come, O Holy "Spirit" substituted, which had always been said at the beginning of study at two in the afternoon. At twelve, the Angelus was said before the boys left the "Study." During the vacations, at Midsummer and Christmas, there

was study in the mornings only, from nine o'clock till half-past ten, and from a quarter before eleven till twelve; but on Tuesdays and Thursdays there was only one "In," as each period of study was called, and this was from nine o'clock till eleven.

The "Studies" were fitted up with long double desks open in front to hold the boys' books and slates, and each accommodated eight or ten boys. In the higher "Studies," there were a few desks with locks, which it was, of course, a privilege to be allowed to occupy. The ordinary mode of punishment was by strokes on the hand with a leather ferula; but for small offences, tasks were given, of so many lines to be learnt by heart. It may be amusing here to explain how the punishment of feruling came to be called, in later times, "fishing." Many and many a Parker has never heard it called by any other name; nay, the name has been introduced into other schools by teachers who had been at Sedgley Park, and yet hardly any one knows how the name originated. It was thus, as the writer well recollects the circumstance occurring. Mr. John Eldridge left the Park in March, 1805, and was succeeded by Mr. Edward Richardson. To get his boys up in the dormitory, this master used to come forth from his room with a horsewhip, and threaten, if they did not turn out, that he would give them some fish bones, alluding to the

whalebone in his horsewhip. Often he called it only "Fish;" and of course the boys took up the name, and soon applied it to the other punishment of feruling; and so this latter came to be so commonly called "fishing," that the old word feruling went out of use, and was all but forgotten.

The useful practice of delivering speeches, recitations in prose, or poetry, dialogues, or dramatic scenes, had been introduced at the Park a short time before the second coming of Mr. Robert Richmond. He, however, with his usual earnest desire to improve those under his care, "undertook to instruct and practice "some of the upper scholars in the delivery of "speeches, and in dialogues for the school ex-"hibitions, which took place after the Examens "at Midsummer and Christmas. For this pur-"pose, he used to meet his pupils, either in the "Refectory, or in the unfinished dormitory of "the new building, which was then preparing " for church students; and with patient indus-"try instructed them in correct pronunciation, "delivery, and appropriate action. This was "conducted in a manner so kind and engaging, "as to become a real pleasure to his willing "pupils. He had a good method, and correct "ideas of oratory; and proceeded on sound "principles, though without strong feeling or "brilliancy."\* The writer has preserved a

<sup>\*</sup> Life of Rev. Robt. Richmond, Ch. III.

bill of the Exhibition Speeches at Christmas, 1807. It was written out by Thomas Laken, and decorated by him with coloured borders of flowers, and two figures of boys declaiming at the top, all of which we thought wonderfully ingenious at the time. It will interest many, especially old Parkers who remember the time and the boys mentioned, to give the contents of this curious old paper.

Junius Brutus, over the dead body of Lucretia Jos. Meatly. Dialogue between Alexander and a) G. Jinks. F. Husenbeth. Robber Boadicea. Edward Winter Interview between Hannibal and) John Kirk. ) P. Higgins. Scipio Ode on a distant prospect of Eton John Froggatt. College. Thomas Laken Wolsey and Cromwell Edward Winter The old Syracusan's Speech against putting the Athenian Generals to death. Sol. Strongitharm. Dialogue between an English Duel-, Rd Hodgskinson. list, a North American Savage, Wm. Tuite. Rd. Horton. and Mercury

It was during this Exhibition that Mr. Quick recited before the Bishop, the superiors, and all the school, his Address, which was delivered very feelingly, and highly applauded. Copies of it used to be carefully preserved in the school, one of which the writer has always treasured up, as he wrote it out at the time. Mr. Quick was a convert from Devonshire, and at the age of 30, came to Longbirch to prosecute his studies for the Church, under the care and tuition of Mr. Bowdon. He was invited to the Park for the Christmas Exhibition of 1807, and took the opportunity of delivering this Address, in verse, of his own composition, which described, in an affecting manner, his own history and feelings, with well-merited compliments at its close to Bishop Milner, Mr. Southworth, and Mr. Walsh. It begins with these lines:

"As the poor redbreast, nursed in deserts wild, Untaught, unguided, nature's wandering child, In thoughtless song his cheerful spring employs, And wantons on through summer's giddy joys, Till chilling blasts awakening serious thought, He hastens trembling to some friendly cot, So I to worldly prospects bid adieu, And trembling, hoping fly, my Lord, to you."

Mr. Quick was never connected with Sedgley Park, though beloved by many who were, and this opportunity is gladly taken to pay an imperfect tribute to his extraordinary worth. His course was that of a meteor, short, but brilliant. In less than eleven years after this Exhibition, it was finished. He removed to Oscott, when it was re-opened as St. Mary's College in the year following, and became successively Procurator, Professor of Philosophy and

Theology, and President. How much did he accomplish in those few years! He was the very life and soul of the College. The spirit which he infused into every department was new and astonishing. Soon after the re-opening of the College, those Ecclesiastical Conferences were begun, chiefly by his exertions, which were so eminently beneficial to ecclesiastical students, and to which every clerical son of St. Mary's looks back with delight and gratitude. The writer has in his possession Mr. Quick's first Discourse, probably delivered at the very first Conference, for its date is November 3, 1808. The subject is the Goodness of God; and also his second, on the Titles by which God claims our Service, which he delivered on New Year's Day, 1809. Both are in his own handwriting. He was ordained priest in 1811. His labours in the College were incredible. He never spared himself, but after labouring hard all day, he would sit up at night, praying, meditating, and studying so long, that he seemed to take scarcely any repose. The writer slept in the next room to him, and had many opportunities of knowing his pious, mortified, and studious habits. Indeed, it seemed as if he lived without rest, though for some time he actually taught both Philosophy and Divinity, and had all the toils and cares of the presidentship besides. This however could not last. He was of a spare form and delicate constitution,

and he soon wore himself out. The sword was too sharp for the scabbard, and he sunk prematurely, and died on the 13th of August, 1818. Dr. Milner was giving Confirmation at the time, far away at Cossey Hall. When the sad tidings reached him, he was deeply affected, paced up and down in utter abstraction and convulsive agitation, exclaiming: "I have lost my right hand!" But he calmed down soon to holy and edifying acquiescence in the inscrutable will of God, and uttered with deep devotion: "The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord!"

Such then was the plain, solid course of education received at Sedgley Park. It was neither a seminary nor a college, but a school for the middle classes. It made no brilliant pretensions, and put forth no professions which it did not satisfactorily fulfil. But it afforded to many, year after year, a sound useful education, providing with all requisites for every avocation, those who were destined for secular life, and preparing for their subsequent course at College, numbers who have adorned, and continue to adorn the ranks of the Catholic priesthood. It is not generally known that the celebrated John Kemble and his brother were both boys at Sedgley Park. They came Nov. 3, 1767. John removed thence to Douay College, July 28, 1771. The only books he brought to the Park, were a Daily Companion, Half Manual, and Æsop's Fables.

## CHAPTER TENTH.

DISTRIBUTION OF TIME DURING THE DAY—THE "BOUNDS"

DESCRIBED — GARDENS — TREES — CATCHING BIRDS —

"GREENS"—"ROASTERS"—CAGE-BIRDS—BALL-PLACE—

GAMES — WATCH MASTERS—GOING FOR A PLAYDAY—

SOLDIERS—OLD PARK TUNE.

- "Time hurries on,
- " Like the fleet courser in his arrowy flight;
- "Thus have the swift and joyful moments gone
  "In rapturous delight;
- "While I have cast
- "O'er my full heart a dream of bygone hours-
- "Visions of bliss that fling around the past

"Their sunshine and their flowers."

R. F. WILLIAMS.

And now we shut up books, leave the "Study," and join the glad and glorious shouts of the boys running down into the "Bounds," with that exuberant joy which no one ever feels like a boy let out to play. But first, having detailed the hours of study, it is proper to record the distribution of time during the day. The boys got up all the year round at six o'clock, and when all were dressed, and the master gave the word to "kneel down," one

boy recited aloud the "Our Father," "Hail Mary," Apostles' Creed, "Confiteor," and Acts of Faith, Hope, Love of God, Love of our Neighbour and Contrition, concluding with short prayers to our Blessed Lady, our Angel Guardian, and all the Saints. Then all ran clattering down the stairs to wash, and had playtime till a quarter before seven, when they went to Catechism in the Playroom till the bell rang for Mass at half-past seven. As soon as they came out of chapel, they went into the Refectory for breakfast, and at a quarter to nine to study till twelve, with the exception of a quarter's playtime at ten o'clock. On coming out of study, they went to wash their hands in the pump house, and were called in to dinner by the master opening the Refectory door at a quarter past twelve. They came out in about half an hour, and played till two: then studied till six, except for a quarter at four o'clock, when a piece of bread was given to each boy, which was called a "Four o'clock," and free access was allowed to the pump to drink, or fill bottles with water, to keep in the "Playroom boxes." At six they went to supper, and had playtime afterwards till a quarter before eight, when they went to the chapel for Night Prayers, and then to bed. Each boy knelt at his bed, and said his prayers to himself before going to rest. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the afternoons were playtime; but when the relief-master came at half-past one, it was customary to allow those who asked leave, to go up into the "Study." This was a favourite resort of those who wished to be quiet and study, or to write or draw.

On Sundays and Holidays, the hours were filled up thus: Catechism at a quarter past seven, Mass at eight, public spiritual reading after breakfast for half an hour, and play till ten. After chapel, public spiritual reading again for about half an hour, then play till dinner. During this second spiritual reading time, as already mentioned, those who wished might remain in the chapel for private devotion or spiritual reading; but a master always staid in the tribune, to secure their proper behaviour.

After dinner, play till three, then Vespers, play till supper time at six, and after that till eight. Then Night Prayers and bed.

"Ah happy years! once more who would not be a boy?"

The playground, always called the "Bounds," was about an acre of ground in front of the house. It was enclosed with wooden palings all round, painted white, and a quickset hedge was planted outside the palings on every side, which overtopped the palings behind the boys' gardens. These were at the upper end of the "Bounds," reaching its entire breadth; but the last one or two were generally trodden down by a sort of prescriptive right, or had at

best a very precarious existence. A bad practice continued a long time of breaking up the whole of the gardens towards Winter, so that the owners were obliged to dig up their flower roots and deposit them in some corner, or in the "Bank"-by which name they called the space between the pales and the hedgetill Spring, when the gardens were all dug up again and replanted. Some boys built summerhouses of wood in their gardens; others could only accomplish plain seats or little arbours. No one could go into a boy's garden without his leave; and this law was adhered to very honourably. The sides of the beds were often plastered up with mud, called "clag," for which large beef bones got from the kitchen served as trowels. In the Autumn, when the leaves blew into the "Bounds," large heaps of them were collected by those who had gardens, and laid up for manure.

At the bottom of the "Bounds," which sloped down gradually from the west, grew a row of noble elm trees, which were always designated as the First Tree, Second Tree, and so on, counting from the tree nearest the wall of the barn. The Third Tree was the favourite, as well for its greater expanse and more picturesque growth, as for its wide spreading roots, which formed little seats, and afforded opportunities for various kinds of amusement. The roots of all the trees were favourite places for

making little gardens, building houses, playing with little wooden soldiers, and paper ships. When Lord Nelson was killed at Trafalgar, his funeral procession was performed over and over again, "down at the trees," with a coffin made of clay and a brass button on it for a plate, placed on a wooden car on wheels, and followed by little men, like soldiers and sailors, with flags and various funereal insignia. The trees were also convenient for hanging out bird cages; and it was the custom on the first of January, on coming down from the dormitory, to run for trees, so that the boy who got first to a tree, had the right to call that tree his own, and use it for his play for the rest of the year. The Third, Sixth, and Last Trees were the greatest favourites. The chief place, however, for "setting out," that is hanging out cages and traps for birds, was on the pales at the back of the gardens. On these were usually hung a long line of traps and trapcages, which the boys generally made themselves; and they caught a great number of green linnets, also grey linnets and goldfinches. But "Greens," as they were called, were most frequently caught, so that they were familiarly called "roasters," and they were seen roasting at the playroom fires on every playday in the Winter season, and some boys made considerable sums for school boys, by the capture and sale of "roasters," the price being a halfpenny

each. It must not be inferred, however, that they caught birds for roasting only, for many were kept in cages, and of nearly all sorts, "Greens," goldfinches, grey linnets, canaries, and skylarks, with occasionally thrushes, magpies, and starlings. It was also a favourite amusement to bring up tame sparrows.

In the middle of the upper part of the "Bounds" stood the ball-place, built of brick, and available for games of hand-ball and bat and ball, on both sides; the eastern side, however, having the longest ground before it, was used for the best games, and generally for bat. The bats were of a make almost peculiar to the Park, and have always kept up a high reputation, so that they have been preferred and procured by some of our colleges. The boys made their own balls, and some were professed makers, and carried on a little school trade in that line. Each boy on coming to the school had a certain number assigned to him, and with that number all his clothes and playthings were marked, and especially balls, so that the owner of a lost ball could be at once discovered; and if a ball was found without a number, the finder was allowed to keep it. A favourite game was "cat," but played with a ball, which was struck with a stick, thicker at each end than at the middle, and called a "cat-stick." This was usually played at the lower end of the "Bounds" near the chapel, for the convenience of sending

the ball to a great distance. Mr. Birch often joined the boys at this game, and they used to contrive purposely to let him get the "striking hole," to witness his extraordinary power of sending the ball a long distance, oftentimes even into the "Long Meadow." The similar game of "rounders" was much played later on, as also "cricket."

It would be tiring the reader's patience to describe all the Park games, however delightful to an old Parker to tell them.

"O how cruelly sweet are the echoes that start,

"When Memory plays some old tune on the heart."

ELIZA COOK.

Still it may be interesting to mention the principal ones, as they came on in their seasons. In the Spring, when the ground was dry, the first game "brought up" was "Marloes" (marbles), with the various ways of playing, such as "big ring" and "little ring," "gobble-hole," "three holes," and "laying down" a "marlo" for another to shoot at. Next came peg-tops with their several varieties, laying a "live O," pegging at a "dead O," making a top "go to "sleep," and the rest. Then followed hoops, "heap," "backs," kites, and the usual games of schools; of which those only need be dwelt upon, which were either peculiar to the Park, or played there in a particular manner.

Skipping with a rope was a favourite game, played usually in the playroom, but very

often in the "Bounds" also in dry weather. "Long-rope" was when two boys held and turned a long rope, and a boy had to step in, and skip, and step out of this rope, without touching it or disturbing its turns. He called to the turners, to signify at what pace they were to turn. The slowest was "cabbage," then "faster," then "bacon," and finally "double ones." There was also "bells," where, instead of turning the rope, they swung it backwards and forwards on the ground, and a boy kept stepping over it and back again in measured time.

Some were fond of playing at birds, making nests of the long wiry grass which grew behind the rails, putting into them white stones for eggs, and placing them in the hedge, where the boy who played as the master was to try and find the nests.

"Heap" was a small hillock of sand for a game similar to trap-ball. "Backs" was leap-frog, but chiefly played by going over the backs laid lengthways, not over the shoulders, which latter was alone called leap-frog. Of this the several games were "pitching," that is, springing over a back at some distance, called, "foot and a half," and "foot and a horse shoe," single backs in beds, and backs round the "Bounds."

<sup>\*</sup> Foot and a half was the length of a foot, and the broadest part of the foot turned sideways: Foot and a horse shoe was rather less, being the breadth of the heel sideways added to the length of the foot.

There were numerous games of "beds," played with a tile, or a piece of wood, within lines drawn on the ground, such as "pudding and beef," "running beds," "back beds," "cross "beds," and "funny beds." In kites some boys excelled greatly, particularly one named Hetherington, better known as "Hob Carter." He was fond of making kites of very large size, which when up in a strong wind would fairly pull a little boy along. He would make them in strange and grotesque shapes, Spanish kites of an octagonal form, and man-kites like a sailor, painted so as to look like a little man up in the air.

Another favourite sport was playing at "horses," usually in the Summer months. At one time this had arrived at a regular system with inns, turnpikes, money (yellow and white stones), gentlemen and thickes, and stage coaches, that is, horses driven four in hand, but without carriages. Then at times came up wooden sledges, and carts on wheels, drawn by a number of boys round the Bounds. Other favourite games were "I-spy-I," "hoop,"-"fox, fox, come out of your den,"-"cockwarning,"—" prisoners' base,"—" tag," and "cross-tag,"-"leading blind,"-"hop hat,"-"hoop round the ball place,"-" bull beef," played with thick stakes struck into a bed of wet clay, behind the "Ball Place;" "follow your leader,"-" hare and hounds," and when

the cold weather came, the famous game of "foot ball."

On Sundays the "Bounds" presented a very different appearance in playtime. The boys used chiefly to walk up and down in twos and threes in the morning before Catechism; and some more devout boys used to walk up and down between the trees and the paling at the bottom of the Bounds, in silent meditation, or reading some pious book, such as "The Following of Christ." This was the favourite retired walk of a boy when he was going that morning to the Holy Communion. No noisy play was indulged in on Sundays, but a few quiet games went on in the afternoon, such as, "lead-"ing blind," "hot beans and butter," "having things" at the gardens, that is, standing before a boy's garden, and choosing one flower and another in turns, to see who could choose the most, or hold out the longest. They would also form groups about some boy who could tell a good story, particularly some history of a pious character.

In playtime the boys were always under the care of one of the masters, who took their turns each day to watch in the "Bounds" and Refectory, and the master for the day was called the "Watch-master." At half-past one, he was relieved by the master who had watched the day before, and who was now called the "Re-"lief-master," so that he might go to dinner.

When the "Relief-master" appeared, on a study day, and there was any chance of getting a playday, the shout was set up: "Who'll go for a play-day?" Soon a few boys asked leave of the master, and proceeded to the parlour to beg for a playday, and if the season and weather permitted, for a "Walking" also. It was an interval of anxious suspense and speculation, before the boys returned. Some would say the president had got his "stingy wig" on that day, and there was no chance of a playday. Others would get a black round stone, which they called a "Witch," and consult its augury for the event. If the petition was granted, the whole "Bounds" rung with shouts, and the boys leaped about, kicked and cuffed one another all in good humour, tossed up their hats, and showed every sign of extravagant joy. Sometimes the boys, who went for a playday, would come back silent and sad, as if they had been refused. The other boys dispersed and reconciled themselves to their fate. After some time, by a preconcerted signal, those who had been for the playday would set up a shout, and thus proclaim it to the rest, who then welcomed it with double delight and rejoicing. This practice, however, was soon forbidden; and if a playday was not announced at once, it was forfeited.

At one time, the boys played regularly at "soldiers," which they began in 1805. They learned military exercise and manœuvres, had

pasteboard caps painted black, with a plate in front, of Dutch gold leaf, and a Stafford knot, also wooden guns painted. They got up a very respectable band, with a large drum, two or three fifes, a horn, and a triangle. They had English, French, and Danish colours, besides a handsome flag of purple silk; and the officers wore cocked hats of pasteboard, and had wooden swords. The purple silk flag belonged to a boy from London, named Harrington. The drum was purchased of a broken up corps of volunteers, and it bore the inscription: "Staffordshire Loyal Volunteers." The fifes were played by two boys, and sometimes they mustered three; one of them was good-naturedly called "Hard Times," from his spare form and pinched-up appearance; but he was an amiable boy and always liked. The drummer was George Hicks, a Hampshire boy, and after him, his brother Joseph. It was surprising that the regiment filled up so well, considering that each soldier, instead of receiving pay, had to pay himself on enlisting, ninepence for his wooden gun, and threepence for his pasteboard cap. Moreover, the soldiers had to sacrifice their play whenever they were summoned to parade, which happened on almost every playday, when the weather was fine.

The loyal regiment, however, was not suffered to parade unmolested. An opposition squad was got up by two boys, and these were called Rebels by the loyal party. They, however, called themselves Mawlers, because, in derision of the exercise of the loyalists, their sole manuevre was pulling boys down with their hands, which they called Mawling. Sometimes they were armed with sticks, and took delight in crossing the path of the loyal regiment, breaking their ranks, and fighting with them, sticks against wooden guns. A smaller and more harmless file of soldiers was also got up by two other boys, with feathers in their hats of white and pink paper, cut and curled round twigs, and a band of jews' harps!

But Bishop Milner had too great a horror of war, to encourage a martial spirit in school boys; and when on one unlucky occasion the regiment marched in military style to ask his Lordship, who was dining in the parlour, for a "Field-day," they received a stern rebuke, and an order to disband at once. This occurred in 1807. The regiment was broken up forthwith, and the guns bartered away to the president for two playdays.

A favourite tune of our band was one of a plaintive and peculiar character, which deserves to be perpetuated in these pages. The name of it was either never known, or has long been forgotten; and every endeavour to find it out on the part of the writer has failed, though he has enquired of some of the first musicians in the kingdom. He gives it here from memory,

with some lines which he wrote to it years ago to gratify his own feelings.





And when that dream was faded far,
That dear delusion o'er,
No change, no time thy form could mar,
I only loved thee more!
And I watched thy waning star,
More fondly than before.

Thou, dear old Park, to me hast been
Through life, earth's verdant spot;
In other lands joys came between,
But O, they charmed me not;
All for me might lie unseen,
And all, save thee, forgot.

These then were the principal out-door games in the "Bounds." Those who think they have been dwelt upon too minutely, might be reminded of the words of a holy ascetic writer: "Semper bonus homo est tiro;" but let it suffice to say:

- "Smile if ye will, but some heart-strings
- "Are closest linked to simplest things-
- " And these old scenes will hold mine fast,
- "Till joy and life and all be past."

ELIZA COOK.

## CHAPTER ELEVENTH.

"OUT OF BOUNDS"—"A PLAYDAY AND A WALKING"—
PEN COMMON—THE "CASTLE"—FRENCH WALKING AND
SKATING—HAYMAKERS WALKING AND FEAST—WINTER
SPORTS—SNOW MAN—WINTER CARTS—SLIDING AND
SKATING PONDS.

- "But dawn never broke on my wistful gaze,
- "Like the dawn of this haunt of my early days.
- "Alas! are the feelings of youth all dead?
- " Alas! are the visions of youth all fled?
- " Does nought of the tree but the trunk remain,
- "Is it never to flourish to bloom again?
- "O could I those feelings so deeply regret,
- "If they lingered not faint in this bosom yet?
- "The visions of youth are not gone, or how
- "Could the dreams of my infancy please me now?"

J. C. MERCIER.

The boys were confined within the limits of the "Bounds," which, however, were spacious enough for all their amusements and games, except that sometimes they obtained leave to have a game at football in the field above the "Bounds," called the "Bounds-Piece," or in one of the fields beyond the "Bounds," either the "Bath Field," or the "Long Meadow."

But a curious custom prevailed of boys being allowed occasionally to be, what was termed, "Out of Bounds." The occasions when this privilege was allowed were, when the friends of a boy came to see him, and then he was "Out of Bounds" during their stay, and for the remainder of the day of their departure; also when a boy was going home he obtained leave to be "Out of Bounds" the afternoon before. And when a new boy came, his brother, or any boy related to him might be "Out of Bounds" with him for the day on which he came and the next day, to show him about, and initiate him in the ways of the school, as well as to reconcile him gradually to his new condition. The privilege included taking meals in the Kitchen, with better fare than would be had in the Refectory. Formerly being "Out of "Bounds" gave an unlimited range, and boys were running about the "Big Garden," and every where; but the privilege was afterwards restricted to the "Bounds-Piece."

But the grand escape from the "limits of their little reign," was when the boys enjoyed a "Playday and a Walking." An extra half day was given for play generally once a week, according to the weather, or at the request of some visitor. If any especial visitor came, such as a bishop or a person of rank, a "Whole Playday" was frequently given. But it was usual to call half a day's holiday a "Playday;"

and when to this was added a "Walking," nothing could exceed the delight of the boys. Then Thomas the Tailor (Simpson), and old George Gibbins, at the "Tailor's Shop," were besieged beyond their patience for better clothes for the walking. Then were pleasant plans made for the coming excursion, parties formed to go together, and pairs became all at once the closest of friends.

- "Two lads that thought there was no more behind,
- "But such a day to-morrow as to day,
- "And to be boy eternal."

Many would go after bird's nests, others after fruit or flowers, or green rushes, to make caps and whips, others were bent on bringing home bunches of sticks for the sweet peas in their gardens; others would take call-birds in cages, and traps to "set out" on the Common, or kites to fly; and many would go joyously forth without any settled object, but ready for any sport or attraction that offered, poking into every hedge for nuts or blackberries, nests, brambles for "kite-benders," rats, frogs, weasels, or any thing that offered. One boy, nicknamed Spunner, was famous for catching vipers. Others were more attracted to the green meadows, where they gathered "souse" (sorrel), or ran for "apple pie" (Epilobium palustre), and foxgloves in the ditches; while many were delighted to see the lambs and cattle, and hear the merry birds singing round.

- "Nor all forgotten be those humble flowers,
  - "Daisies and buttercups—the child's first love;
- "Which lent their magic to our guileless hours,
  - "Ere cares were known:
- "Ah! joyous time! through verdant meads to rove,
  "With wild flowers strewn."

MERRITT.

The school was divided on a "Walking" into three "Sets," the first, second, and "last;" each taken out by a master in his turn. first "Set" often went long walks, such as to Dudley, Himley, or Tettenhall Common: the second went perhaps round by Sedgley and down by the woods and the Penny-loaf shop to "Pen Common," or by "John Moore's," and along the Pen road. The "last set" were often taken to "Bacon Hill" (Beacon, of course, but invariably called Bacon); but all three sets generally liked best to go to "Pen Common." It was an easy distance and a pleasant walk, and the boys were turned loose upon the extensive Common, and enjoyed the liberty of rambling about where they pleased. When the new road was made across the Common from Pen to Sedgley, as it divided the ground into two portions nearly of equal size, the custom began of limiting a "set" to half the Common, either to "this side," or the "other side," as the two portions were respectively called. Many a delightful day on "Pen Common" will be remembered by all who have been students at Sedgley Park. It

was the very place for boys to ramble about, with its gorse and fern, its alder bushes and its brambles, its bogs and pools, with thick grown rushes, its springs and puddles,—its brooks and bridges, down at the "Arches."

- "Concava vallis erat, qua se demittere rivi
- "Assuerant pluvialis aquæ. Tenet ima lacunæ
- "Lenta salix, ulvæque leves, juncique palustres,
- "Viminaque, et longæ parva sub arundine cannæ."\*
  Ovid. Met. viii. 1. 334.

Then there was the famous "Red Sea," and the old yew trees, mountain ash, and crab trees, and nut bushes; and cottages where the boys could buy pears, apples, and damsons, and the beautiful woods in the direction of Himley and Wombourne.

When the boys played at soldiers, they sometimes marched in military order to the Common, and dividing into opposite armies had sham fights. One side was commanded by Michael Tuite, the Commander-in-Chief, and Colville; and the other by two Portuguese boys, McCarthy and Troncozo. They built a square castle of sods, with a ditch on every side, into which they conveyed the water of a stream close by, leaving only a narrow passage on one side by

\* "A valley stood below; the common drain
Of waters from above, and falling rain:
The bottom was a moist and marshy ground
Whose edges were with bending oziers crowned:
The knotty bulrush next in order stood,
And all within of reeds a trembling wood."

GARTH'S Ovid.

way of a bridge to approach the castle. Then one party took possession of the castle, and the other assaulted it. Great was the sport on both sides; and many an assailant was sent backwards into the water, to the great amusement of the rest, who gathered round to witness the siege. The remains of this castle were still to be traced not many years ago: but now its lines are effaced, and its site forgotten. It stood on the farther side, and nearly opposite the centre of the new road. These were the holiday sports of happy Park boys: and "If," as Mr. Digby observes, "we admit the affinity which another "poet speaks of, saying that he resigns himself "to the influence of those 'three harmonies,-"spring, morning, childhood," it is but a just "inference to affirm that nature represented by "the former pleasures points to that divine "faith so closely allied to youthful innocence, "which declares all true joy to be of heaven."\* But besides the ordinary "Walkings," those who learnt French had the privilege of a Walking once in the Summer; and they usually went to Dudley Castle, where they wandered over the extensive and romantic ruins, and were treated to a variety of good things from the confectioners' shops in the town. Once, instead of a Walking, they had a "French Skating," and were taken by Mr. McNeal to skate on the canal from Wolverhampton to beyond

<sup>\*</sup> Compitum-Book II., Ch. 1.

Willenhall. But the coarse collier population of Willenhall seeing the boys skate by, maliciously cut the ice across the canal, made large holes in some places, and sifted cinder ashes in others, on purpose to annoy the party on their return. The consequence was, that returning in the dusk, some of the boys were thrown down, and others were in danger of falling in, so that the master was obliged to order them to take off their skates, and they had to walk home with great fatigue and disappointment.

There was also in September a "Haymakers' Walking," to the farm tenanted by the Park at Longbirch, where a good dinner was prepared for them by good old Molly Crewe, now Walters. Those who enjoyed this Walking were the boys who had assisted in the haymaking on the farm attached to the School. They also shared in a "Haymakers' Feast," held in the Refectory about Michaelmas time, of which the standing dishes were Goose and Damson Pie.

When Winter came, which, in that elevated part of England is usually more severe than in many other parts of the country, it brought with it its own diversions both at home and abroad. In the "Bounds," it was an active time for "setting out" and catching birds, generally doomed to be hung in groups to roast in the playroom. Of course, when the snow fell, the boys instinctively pelted each other with snowballs, and rolled up huge balls of snow, till

they could no longer move them. On the side of the ball-place, towards the top of the "Bounds," they would make castles by enclosing the two corners with a semicircular wall of snow, finished at the top with battlements, and well provided inside with snowballs. the occupants of each fortress fired upon their adversaries with snowballs as long as their ammunition lasted, and scouts could supply them with fresh balls from without. Sometimes a tall man of snow was built up in the "Bounds," and one particularly figured in the beginning of 1806, of enormous height, with his eyes, nose, and mouth, made with coals, which contrasted exquisitively with the snow, and a pipe stuck in his mouth. This huge figure remained so long, that Mr. Southworth became thoroughly tired of its grim visage, and in the beginning of March he actually gave the boys a playday to take it down. This, however, was no easy task, as it was frozen very hard: so they had to saw it through with a thick rope before they could disturb its giant elevation. Another favourite sport in the Bounds was that of "Winter Carts." These were thick boards, the thicker the better, with merely a narrow slip of wood nailed on in front to rest the foot against, and the forepart smoothly rounded off underneath. Some boys would have a rope to hold by, but this was disdained by the more hardy and venturesome, who would just kick the winter cart

off, jump upon it, and then glide over the snow with great velocity, balancing themselves very dexterously, and enjoying a delightful sensation not to be imagined without actual experience.

Of course there was plenty of sliding and skating, for which Park boys had always a high reputation. They had access to three ponds for these sports, but all these together afforded far too little space for their numbers or safety. There was the "Rookery Pond," adjoining what used to be in the early time of the mansion a regular Rookery, but which in our day retained only a few Scotch firs, ashes, and elm trees. This pond was very small; it was seldom skated upon, but usually given up to the little boys for sliding, as it was the nearest to the house, indeed on the borders of the premises. The second was called "The Middle Pit," and was near the farm long occupied by Mr. Thomas Tay, through whose yard was the way to Pen Common. This was about twice the size of the "Rookery Pond," and afforded good skating, but was rather deep in one part, which required caution. The largest and best pond was "Tay's Pit," adjoining his farm yard, and this was of course the favourite with the good skaters. Before the boys could have a "skating," one precaution was always observed, which was that old John Moore, the gardener, was sent to try the ponds; and until he reported their perfect safety, the boys were

not suffered to go on them. But when the good news came that John Moore found all safe, a "skating" was sure to be given at any time, as the sport must be taken when it could be had, and the exercise was too healthful and beneficial to the boys, to be suffered to pass by without taking advantage of it. Perhaps there is no sport so delightful to boys as to slide or They often had very poor rickety skates, perhaps not even pairs, tied on with list to begin with; but no matter, any thing in the shape of a skate was a treasure, and on they went, scrambling along, and tumbling till they were sore and stiff, with perfect pleasure and perseverance. But many became good skaters, and some arrived at great perfection in cutting out figures, and performing extraordinary manœuvres both forwards and backwards. They would keep on the ice to the last moment allowed, and always left it with a reluctance greater than any other amusement induced. At length it was dark, and time to move home to supper, and they came slowly dragging their limbs along thoroughly fatigued, yet by no means tired of the amusement, but feeling as if they should love to prolong it to a time indefinite. Such was always the feeling of sliding and skating; but its rare and precarious occurrence tended greatly to heighten the enjoyment of the sport when possessed.

## CHAPTER TWELFTH.

THE PLAYROOM—PLAYROOM AMUSEMENTS—MUSIC AND SINGING—NEWS BROUGHT OF THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR—MIDSUMMER AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS—GOING HOME—LEAVING "FOR GOOD."

"Still smile the very scenes I ranged,
"But where's the life they could impart?
"Oh! thus looks youth to man, as born
"For all that nobler minds adore,
"And man looks back to youth's sweet morn,
"And smiles no more!"
C. SWAIN.

The Playroom was the welcome place of repose on coming home from a walking, or a skating. It is time to describe that memorable room, with its fittings, its furniture, and its peculiar games and attractions. The Playroom was formed of two long rooms thrown together, of unequal breadth. The new part, which had the chapel over it, was nearly double the width of the older part made by Mr. Kendal. It was paved throughout with hard-burnt bricks of a bluish colour, the walls were plain whitewashed once a year, in the Midsummer holidays. The entrance from the "Bounds" was at the lower

end under the chapel, and protected within by a large wooden porch, which had room in its upper story for the boys to lay up their bats, cat-sticks, traps, and playthings in general.

The upper part of this porch was often a rendezvous for boys playing at various games. On one occasion some boys had got up a peepshow in a large box, with several views of buildings, with the windows illuminated, by means of lamps placed behind them. These lamps were made of walnut shells filled with tallow; and the last scene of the show was a shipwreck with a storm of thunder and lightning. The exhibitors had established themselves in the darkest corner, and a stout boy kept the door, and admitted only two or three at a time, each paying four "marloes" to see the sight, when the Watch-master observing a light through the chinks of the boarding, came up to see what was going on, "called up" the whole company, and put a sudden extinguisher on the exhibition. This "calling up" was a summons to appear at the master's desk at the next "In" for study. "Come to my desk," was the form of calling up, and it caused a poor boy a long miserable suspense, and made him often very unhappy, when perhaps he would be forgiven after all when he appeared to take his trial at the desk. On this occasion, the boys "called up" put their case into the hands of a big boy among them, who stood forth as

counsel, and pleaded so eloquently, that the case was dismissed; but from the character of the master, it was surmised that the number of the culprits and their size had more influence in procuring their dismissal, than any merciful feeling of his, or any arguments of the orator.

A door in the corner of the lower wall led into the study, half of which was used for Latin, and the other half for the lowest English study. Midway, and opposite to the chapel staircase, was a door leading into what was at first the Little Playroom, then the last Study, and was finally taken in to lengthen the Refectory. Then in the former doorway, a cupboard was made, to give additional room for playthings, garden tools, watering pots, and other articles belonging to the boys; and there were kept the guns and accourtements of the soldiers. At the upper end was the door into the Refectory, and near it, in the opposite corner, the steps leading up to the study places.

The Playroom was warmed by two wide fireplaces, in which enormous fires were made, such as a coal country like that on one side of the Park alone could afford. The boys had long benches, made very strong, which were placed before the fire, forming two sides, united by a middle bench in front, and round these the boys sat, supremely comfortable in a Winter's evening before bright roasting fires of cheerful and enduring brilliancy. When they

came out of "Study" to play for a quarter only, or whenever a few rough boys were inclined for the sport, instead of sitting down quietly before the fire, they would stand up before it, and push one another along in front, each struggling to hold on for a good "warm," at the eminent risk of being actually scorched; and this was called "Scrowging." The Watchmaster never allowed this, but would order them to sit down, that all might have the benefit of the fire. They ran for places at the "big" and "little fires," on coming out of dinner and supper, and each had the right to retain his place, and must get a boy to keep it for him, or tie a handkerchief round his place on the bench, if he wished to leave it for a time. Seats were fixed to the wall nearly all round the Playroom, and the space beneath most of them was made into small cupboards, with locks to the doors, and each with a shelf dividing it in the middle, which were called "Playroom Boxes." It was a desirable thing to have one or two of these for keeping books, bird seed, skates, water-bottles, sand, and of course any eatables that could be met with; and these boxes were continually, by barter or sale, or otherwise, changing owners. Tidy boys would keep theirs in neat order, papering them and cleaning them out carefully. The only other fixtures were rows of pegs to hang up hats, caps, or cages along the walls, and a

few candlestands of the most primitive make, on each of which was a candle in an iron candlestick. Besides the long benches, there were two oblong tables of elm wood, made very strong, and bound with iron round the edges. These were useful for many purposes. Some made kites upon them; others used to keep carpenters' tools, and make bats, traps, and cages, and these tables and a projecting board from the second window served for such operations. In the evenings they were used for playing at cards, draughts, and other games; and oftentimes a few boys would get into the playroom on a Sunday evening in Summer time, and play at whale-fishing, when the tables became ships, and the long benches boats for harpooning the whales who were swimming about. The full enjoyment of the "Playroom," however, was in the Winter evenings, when groups sat about in the corners, and parties formed at the fire to tell stories, play at "working trades" or "forfeits," or enjoy quiet happy talk, till Mr. Harbut appeared with his little lanthorn on the staircase to let them know that it was time for Night Prayers. Plenty of games went on at the same time in the open space of the Playroom, such as "Wild Horses," "Jupiter snuff the Moon," "Bunch of Faggots," "Weighing Butter and Cheese," "Buck, buck," "Hammer, Nail, and Block," and many more. The heat and dust were often intolerable, and

made every one thirsty. Then came forth the water-bottles of earthenware, which had been laid up in the playroom boxes, and "drinks" were eagerly sought for at the price of a "marlo" (marble). There was an old game, or rather trial of endurance, called "Codgies," where two boys lashed each other with a small leather bag, such as the thumb of a glove, stuffed as tightly as possible with wool, and held by a long string. It was a contest to see who would give way first, but the "Codgy," if well made, inflicted great pain; and these rough playthings were very properly abolished. A softer codgy used to be made square of platted list. A few more sedate and studious boys would stand by the candles, and study, or read some book, though others would sometimes mischievously strive to interrupt their sober pursuits, by now and then sending cinders at the candle or the student.

Some boys were musical, and used to practise the flute and the panpipes in the Playroom; while others went about twanging Jews' harps or jingling a triangle. Plenty of songs were sung, most of them uproarious enough both in character and execution; though some boys would get up a more respectable singing party in some quiet corner. The songs most in vogue were "God save the King," "Rule Britannia," "Here I am poor Jack," "Cease rude Boreas," "The Cherokee Indian," "On the Twenty-

first of January," "Life let us cherish," "I'd fight for the life of Georgy," and many songs on the death of the great hero Nelson. When the news of the Victory of Trafalgar arrived,\* old Langford, whose wife sold "Socks," came up to the corner of the "Bounds," and told the boys that Lord Nelson had gained a glorious victory over the combined fleets of France and Spain. This news was of course received with a burst of enthusiastic joy. "Stop lads," said the old man, "I haven't told you all. Lord Nelson is killed!" This no one would believe: it must be a trick of the old man's, Nelson was immortal and invulnerable. So they were going to pelt him for telling them a great lie; but he settled the matter very soon by begging them only just to listen a minute to the bells at Wolverhampton. They were at once silent, and heard, with great consternation, that the bells were ringing half joyous and half muffled, which told the sad tale but too plainly, and exculpated poor old Langford. Never did a nation sustain a shock so overwhelming as did England in the loss of her great naval hero, suddenly snatched from her in the very moment of victory. The grief was deep and universal; the Park boys fully entered into it, and for a long time their talk, their songs, and their very games, had reference to the glorious hero of Trafalgar.

<sup>\*</sup> Gained October 21, 1805.

The "Holidays" at Midsummer began on the 24th of June, and ended on the last day of July. At Christmas, they began on Christmas Day, and ended on the Epiphany. Of course each period had its peculiar diversions according to the season, the weather, and the number of boys who remained at school. Very few went home at Christmas, but at Midsummer more than half the boys went away for the whole or part of the Holidays. As it ever was with school-boys, so was it with "Parkers" a delight to look forward to going home at the Holidays, and count up the weeks and days to elapse before the longed-for time came round. But when a boy's course was altogether finished, and he was to go home "for good," he usually became thoughtful, if a big boy, and his joy was modified by a shade more or less deep of regret at the prospect of leaving a place to which he had become attached, though in great measure unconsciously so, till the near approach of separation brought new feelings, and developed hidden affections. A boy about to leave used to make a sort of will, or rather executed his own will without making it, by giving away various articles to his favourite companions. He was "Out of Bounds" the afternoon before he left, and while that privilege included leave to go into the "Big Garden," boys going home would bring out a large "Crop" of Flowers on the morning of their departure, either to

take with them, or to give to some companion. And when at last the hour came for their departure, they would come round the Refectory to shake hands with the boys, or if it was playtime, would shake hands all along the rails at the top of the "Bounds" with the boys, who were mounted on the palings to bid farewell, and many tears were often shed on both sides. And thus the Park boy went forth from the fostering shade of his old school, to begin his career of hope and peril in the busy scenes of the world.

Young.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Self-flattered, inexperienced, high in hope,

<sup>&</sup>quot;When young, with sanguine cheer and streamers gay,

<sup>&</sup>quot;We cut our cable, launch into the world,

<sup>&</sup>quot;And fondly dream each wind and star our friend;

<sup>&</sup>quot;All in some darling enterprize embarked:

<sup>&</sup>quot;But where is he can fathom its event?"

## CHAPTER THIRTEENTH.

THE REFECTORY—DANCING MASTERS, OLD HALES AND HIS SON—"MANNERS"—DRAWING MASTER, MR. PADDEY—DIET AND ORDER OF MEALS—"MONEY WEEKS"—"SOCKS"—MOLLY LANGFORD—MOLLY MOORE—MOLLY CREWE—EATABLES, PLAYTHINGS, AND MONEY SENT TO THE BOYS FROM THEIR FRIENDS.

Αΐψα γὰρ, ὥστε νόημα, παρέρχεται ἀγλαὸς ἥβη $\cdot$ Οὐδ' ἵππων ὁρμὴ γίγνεται ὧκυτέρη.

Like thought moves glorious youth with flying feet, No racer's rapid course is found more fleet.

We come now to the Refectory, which was not used for meals exclusively. Drawing and dancing used to be taught there. It was furnished with strong deal tables, painted at first, but not kept painted, which were placed along the walls, and when the school was very full, an additional table stood in the middle, till sufficient room was gained by opening the wall at the east end, and adding the room which had been before the last "Study." Two brick pillars were left and wainscoted round, so that there appeared in the end wall three arches, the centre arch being the highest. The upper

half of the Refectory was boarded for the purpose of dancing which was taught there, but the lower half had a bricked floor. dancing-master at the beginning of the century was old Mr. Hales, from Brewood, a curious figure for a dancing-master, a portly little man with a long drab coat, and a considerable corporation. His son afterwards succeeded, who was a far more genteel man, and dressed in black. Such dancing as Park boys acquired was, no doubt, of a very homely character; but it was something in their estimation to have a pair of pumps, and to escape from study on the dancing day, which was once a fortnight, on a Wednesday. Each "Study" in turn also went in the afternoon to the Refectory to have a lesson in "Manners" from the dancingmaster. This consisted of the five usual positions, and exercises in politeness, such as the "Passing Bow," which old Hales always pronounced Bo, handing a book and receiving it, walking upright and marching; all of which afforded the greatest fun to the boys, while the dancing-master went through all with perfect gravity, apparently quite unconscious of there being any thing ludicrous about it.

The drawing-master for many years was Mr. Richard Paddey, who lived in Wolverhampton. He walked up to the Park every Tuesday morning, and Saturday afternoon, with undeviating punctuality in all weathers. There was

a cupboard near the door at the bottom of the Refectory where Mr. Paddey's patterns and the boys' drawings and materials were laid up, of which he kept the key. His abilities as a drawing-master were very limited, yet he used to paint in oil, take likenesses, and even etch his own drawings, as he did the views which he took of Sedgley Park. But he was a very kind, patient, and pleasing master, and his pupils were always much attached to him. Mr. Harbut was his particular friend, and on every drawing day he would come into the Refectory for a little chat with Mr. Paddey. Dancing and drawing were extras, and only a few boys learned them.

But of course the Refectory was chiefly for the boys' meals. Breakfast was at a quarter past eight, or as soon as the boys came out of the chapel from hearing Mass. On Sundays it was half an hour later. Dinner was at a quarter past twelve; a piece of bread was allowed at four, called a "Four o'clock," and Supper was at six o'clock. The diet was very plain, such as could be afforded for the low pension required. For breakfast, bread and milk porridge, or onion porridge occasionally, when milk was scarce. For supper, bread, with cold milk in Summer, and hot in Winter; sometimes buttermilk or broth could be had by those who liked them; and in the Winter, the boys had often bread and cheese, or bread and

butter, with beer or water. They drank out of tin cans, and had pewter plates, with iron spoons, or copper plated, or pewter. On Sundays they had baked beef, and pudding also baked. and well known as Sunday pudding. Before meat was allowed on the Sundays in Lent, the dinner was of potato pie. On Mondays and Wednesdays they had boiled beef or mutton, with potatoes or cabbage; on Tuesdays, baked beef, bacon and suet pudding, with potatoes; on Thursdays, meat pie. On the abstinence days, they were allowed a portion of butter or cheese, and had rice or bread pudding, "plum duff," which was the Park name for a roll pudding made with currants, stir-about, baked plum rolls, roasted potatoes, potato pie, eggs, saltfish, herrings, or fruit pies, according to the season. When pigs were killed, they were treated to pork pies and "hodgies" (hog's puddings), and on Christmas day, New Year's day, and the Epiphany, they had mince pie.

The dinner was brought in by two big boys, who were called "Carriers," upon large round trays, with an iron handle in the middle, by which they held the tray against their side, with plates all round it, laden with the dinner portions. Two masters always watched together in the Refectory, one at the "top tables," the other at the "little tables," one of whom was the watch-master of the "Bounds" for the day. Silence was enjoined at all the meals, the watch-master said grace before and after the meal, and when all had finished, he gave the order to "stand up." The boys then formed in a double line down the Refectory; one master stood near the door, and the boys went out two and two after Grace had been said, bowing to the master as they passed.

Among other uses of the Refectory, it was there that Mr. Harbut every Tuesday gave out the "Money Weeks," that is, the small allowance for pocket money. Threepence was the highest allowance, some had only twopence, and the rest only a penny. It was wonderful to observe the careful and patient distribution of these "Money Weeks" by the admirable Mr. Harbut; how he went round the tables with his bag of coppers, paying every one his proper allowance without any mistakes, knowing every boy, and what he was to receive. Some boys, however, had more money, because Mr. Harbut kept all the money which was sent them as extra pocket money by their friends. But the good old man doled out this very economically. A boy might go for threepence only once in three weeks, and then he must come provided with a note from his study-master, which was a voucher for his good behaviour.

When any windows had been broken, Mr. Harbut used to proclaim them in the Refectory, and require the delinquents to own their deeds. Then their pocket money was stopped for so

many weeks till the cost of the squares of glass was made up. If it was found that several more windows were broken than were owned to, the boys were threatened with a stoppage of extra playdays till the offenders were discovered; but generally they came forward to acknowledge these fractures very honestly. In the Refectory also the masters used to proclaim any things lost, and display things found, that all might recover their own property.

The boys spent their small allowance in a variety of ways, but generally in buying "Socks." This was the name for all cakes, and sweet things, fruit, and confectionary. Its origin seems to have been from "Sucks," that is, long sticks of toffee or other compounds of sugar or treacle. But "Socks" was the established word, and it even grew into constant use for any thing pleasant; so they said such a thing was a good "Sock," when they meant any occurrence of an agreeable nature. On Tuesdays a woman came in the afternoon from Wolverhampton, with an ample supply of "Socks," which she laid out on the table in the Refectory nearest to the door; and the boys were admitted by the Watch-master, and stood in a line on the opposite side, waiting their turns to be allowed to go up to the "Sock" table to buy, at the rate of about half a dozen boys at a time. The woman who sold "Socks" at this time, on Tuesdays, was Molly

Langford, the wife of the old man who brought the news of Nelson's death at Trafalgar, as related above. She was succeeded by Molly Moore, wife of old John Moore the gardener. Molly continued to sell "Socks" till her death, which took place at her house at Goldthorn Hill, May 14, 1840, at about the age of 73. Molly Moore was a truly good, pious soul, a woman of simple, guileless manners, and strictly attentive to every religious duty. It will amuse those who knew her to record a trait of her simplicity in her last illness. The writer of these pages was on a visit to the Park, and as the priest was gone out, he supplied his place for the time, and called to see poor old Molly. who was very ill. He was reading some prayers by her bedside, when she suddenly interrupted him, and with a very arch look, said: "Ah, Mr. Husenbeth, you didna think "of this, when you'd used to come and buy "socks of may (me)!" This appeal was so irresistibly comical, that all further spiritual colloquy was suspended, and a pleasant talk about old times finished the interview. Poor Molly died a few days afterwards, having received the last Sacraments with great devotion.

Besides the "Socks" sold on Tuesdays, another old woman, Molly Crewe, was allowed to come on Wednesdays, and used to stand with her little basket at the corner of the "Platts" wall by the "Bounds" gates. But

she sold only a few kinds of "Socks," and her customers were only those who had any money left after the temptations of Tuesday. She afterwards kept the house at Longbirch, and died there in 1824. The head cobbler, Francis, also sold "Socks" at the cobbler's shop, but had only a few select customers. When boys had any eatables sent them from home, such as mince pies, preserves, cakes or cheeses, these things were not given to them at once, but kept for them by the housekeeper. They were allowed to go for some portion of their eatables at four o'clock each day, as long as they lasted; and when they had a cheese, of course it supplied them for a long time. If playthings came, they were given out to their owners at once; but money was handed over to Mr. Harbut's keeping; and the boys must go for it, as already described. Besides going to him for money, if a boy had money "at Mr. Harbut," as the phrase was, he would go for books, pencils, quills, or other articles of stationery, to be paid for out of his money in Mr. Harbut's hands.

If a boy had sent him from home some present which could not be otherwise partaken of by him, such as game, hams, or poultry, they were served up at the parlour table, and the boys whose friends had sent them were privileged to dine in the parlour, and to go to the housekeeper at four o'clock for portions, as long as the good things lasted.

These were the old customs of the old times of Sedgley Park, all redolent of the simple manners of the place, for even though the world kept advancing in refinement, the Park stood comparatively still, and adhered with surprising tenacity to its rude and primitive ways and observances. Indeed it was a maxim which the venerable Mr. Southworth used very often to repeat, and which assuredly influenced his conduct in an extraordinary degree: "Noli ab antiquis discedere."

## CHAPTER FOURTEENTH.

DRESS OF THE BOYS — DORMITORIES — CALLING OUT
HANDKERCHIEFS — TAILOR'S AND COBBLER'S SHOPS —
KITCHEN — HOUSEKEEPERS AND MAID SERVANTS —
HANNAH SOUTHALL — DAIRY — BAKEHOUSE — BREWHOUSE
— LAUNDRY — INFIRMARY — OUT-DOOR SERVANTS — FARM
— CARPENTERS.

"My pensive memory lingers o'er

"Those scenes to be enjoyed no more,

"Those scenes regretted ever;

"The measure of our youth is full,

"Life's evening dream is dark and dull,
"And we may meet—ah! never!"

Byron.

The mind's eye goes back to old days and old scenes, and distinctly sees a Park boy in his primitive and ordinary habiliments. These were generally of fustian, corduroy, or velveteen; and most of the boys wore knee breeches, innocent of braces, with cloth or light waist-coats of all patterns, and coats cut round in front, and having only one pocket, which was on the left side. The breeches had only one pocket either, but this was on the right side. So that a Park boy usually walked on a cold

day with one hand in his coat pocket, and the other in his breeches pocket on his right side. They wore hard felt hats, or caps of black leather, shaped like a half moon and edged with fur. These were worn like cocked hats, generally forward, but sometimes crosswise. These caps were pressed into the service for various purposes. They served as cushions to kneel upon in the chapel; and the boys had an ingenious mode of forming a hollow in the top, so as to use the outside of the cap for a drinking cup. Such was the clothing usually found by the school, and included in the pension; but those who found their own clothes were dressed rather better.

As a check upon vanity, and not without its utility, it was the custom when a boy had new clothes, to pinch him for the first day. If he had new shoes, they trod on his toes; if new stockings, they scraped his leg or ankle; and if a new hat or cap, they thumped his head. No difference of dress was observed on Sundays, except of course that the boys had clean shirts, stockings, and shoes. On Wednesdays also they had clean shirts. These were laid on the boys' beds on the evenings before, by Thomas Simpson, always called "Thomas the Tailor."

The dormitories about this period of the Park's history were five in number; a sixth was added in 1808. The farthest was in the

Eastern building over the tailor's and cobbler's shops. One was over the study places looking into the "Big Garden," and another parallel with it looking into the "Bounds." The "High Dormitory" at the top of the "High House," consisted then of four rooms; but the way up to it was by a narrow, dark, winding staircase opposite the housekeeper's room, and the boys had to come from the chapel through the "Bounds" in all weathers to go to it. Another Dormitory was over the Infirmary, and it included two good sized rooms, beyond which was the cheese room, and then another room with beds, both over the brew-house, in the old wing of the original building towards the west.

In the second room of this Dormitory, and with a window looking out over the pumphouse, was a small room with boarded partition-walls, which was originally made for the reception of an invalid gentleman, named Davis, who had no office in the house, but was received at the Park as a parlour boarder for the benefit of his health. But he grew no better, and after some months he left the Park, and went to London. This room was long occupied by Mr. McNeal, and it has the convenience of a fire-place. A few boys also had beds in the lumber room beyond this, where old "George the Tailor" slept, and who had these few boys under his care. When the

school was very full, a few beds were also occupied opposite Mr. Harbut's office, and against the wall of the Chapel.

The bedsteads were all of strong wood, elm, beech, or poplar, with curtains of blue and white check, which afterwards were supplanted in some dormitories by a neat cotton print, purple and white. Coverlets of the same were used for the beds, instead of rugs, which had been originally employed. The beds were mattresses of wool, and the pillows were filled with the same. In connexion with the Dormitories may be mentioned the singular way of giving out handkerchiefs. Every Friday, after dinner, a boy who was duly appointed to the office, went round the "Bounds" and "Playroom" calling out two Dormitories at a time, thus: "Mr. Wilson's and the High Dormitory "go to the Tailor's!" Then the boys in these Dormitories had to go to the "Tailor's Shop," where in the first room, "Thomas the Tailor" stood to give out handkerchiefs, as the boys came for them. The crier had the privilege of going into the kitchen on Fridays at four o'clock for bread and cheese, and certainly he earned it well. Many old Parkers will remember how Joe Rogerson, and after him, Harry Caton, "called the Dormitories" in this manner for some years.

The Tailors' and Cobblers' Shop were in that building which stood towards the east in

the "Big Garden," and was built by Mr. Kirk, as already recorded. Above, were two rooms appropriated to the master tailor, who for many years was Thomas Simpson, a thin, sharpfeatured old man, brisk and keen, and indefatigable in his department. There were shelves all round his rooms with open recesses for the boys' clothes, each serving for two boys, whose numbers were written on the ledge. This was the sanctum sanctorum of old Thomas, to which it was not easy to gain access, unless a boy went to buy of him needles or thread, leather for whips or balls, or old worstead stockings to make balls with; or when Thomas sent for a boy to be measured for new clothes, or to fit him out to go home. The shop below, however, was visited every day, as boys were always wanting buttons sewed on, torn clothes mended, or suits changed. Here were three or four tailors constantly at work, besides a woman tailoress who sat mending light things, such as waistcoats. The most remarkable of the tailors were John Crewe, who afterwards lived in Wolverhampton, and kept a respectable draper's shop; George Gibbins, who remained at the Park for a long series of years, and died there in 1840; William Simpson, who afterwards had the place of his brother Thomas as master tailor; old Rogers, a Welshman, who worked there several years; and old "Sally Mark," whose proper name

was Richardson, the wife of a little old deaf man, a tailor, Mark Richardson. She worked many years in the tailor's shop, and in the latter part of her long life was located at the "Butcher's Farm-house," of which she had the care till her death, which took place April 27, 1844, at a very advanced age. She was almost the last survivor of the old inmates of the olden time. Every one liked old Sally for her constant cheerfulness, simplicity, hard plodding habits of industry, and willing usefulness. She deserved well of Sedgley Park for many a year, and it is a pleasure to pay this passing tribute to her memory as "a good and faithful servant." Her husband, old Mark, used to work also in the tailor's shop, and wore a Welsh wig, but afterwards he lived at Wolverhampton, still doing work occasionally for the School. He would call out as he went by the "Bounds," taking home a bundle of clothes to be mended: "Rip and tear, lads, rip and tear," so that, of course, he might have the more to mend. He was extremely deaf, so that any rejoinder or remonstrance would have been useless. He came from Westmoreland, and sometimes he would take a sudden freak, and be off to his native county, leaving old Sally to wonder what had become of him.

On the other side of this building was the "Cobbler's Shop," and a small room where the master Cobbler Francis kept his leather.

Francis Cheadle was one of the longest and best known inmates of the Park. He long had charge of the shoe department, and was a model of regularity and integrity. Besides his shop, he took care of the bees, whose hives stood near it in the garden, and was clever and experienced in hiving the swarms, and in the general management of the bees. The next cobbler to Francis was Lewis Grinsell, also a long time at the Park. He died there of consumption in December, 1824. John Spears, familiarly called "Jack Go-lightly," was a well-known character in the cobbler's shop, one whose habits were anything but regular, and whom the boys delighted in playing tricks with; but he did not continue long at the Park. In one corner was the grave old cobbler William Davis, quite an original character. He had been in his early days a strolling player, and would repeat whole speeches from Shakspeare with great enthusiasm. He had also a budget of songs, which he sung with a strong nasal twang, particularly one, beginning thus:

- "Bold Britons with courage advaunce!
  - " On this present occasion;
- "Avenging your wrongs upon Fraunce,
  - "As threatens us with an invasion."

Good old meek and patient William! There he sat for many long years in the same corner, working quietly and assiduously. The wall by

his side was adorned with prints of famous battles, such as "Bunker's Hill" and the "Battle of the Nile," with sundry old favourite ballads and portraits of heroes. It was old William's task to trudge daily along the garden to the pump to fetch water in a brass kettle, which was used for soaking the leather and cobbler's wax. On Sundays, William never stirred beyond the premises, but spent his evenings in the kitchen reading his favourite book, "The Instruction of Youth." He was however well read, and a man of sound sense and much useful knowledge, while his life was always regular and edifying. So he lived, and so he died at last at the Park in a good old age, in 1819. On Saturdays, the cobblers were all busily employed in greasing the boys' shoes for Sunday, which Francis and Lewis afterwards carried up to the dormitories, laying each boys' shoes under his bed; for blacking was not introduced till long after, and the only shoestrings found by the school were leather thongs.

In the year 1815, James Parkes came as an additional shoemaker. By his industry and good conduct, he gradually rose to the head of that department, and has continued at the Park ever since. For many years he has had the sole care and management of the boys' shoes, and no one has been more faithful in his charge or more deservedly respected than Mr. James Parkes.

The kitchen, it has been already mentioned, was made by Mr. Southworth, and opened by a wide arch, into what had been the old kitchen under the "High House." It is a very large and convenient kitchen, well lighted, and aired by a large window, directly under that of the maid servants' room. Between the window and the fireplace is, by an excellent arrangement, the door into the coal house, which is filled through an opening above. The old kitchen became very useful for baking dinners, for which an enormous oven was kept in perpetual requisition. Between the kitchen and the Refectory was the Beer cellar, always well stored with huge casks of ale and small beer, and the Wine cellar was at the back of this, carefully locked up. Opposite to the cellar was the housekeeper's pantry, and on the right hand of the steps leading up to the ground floor was the "Bread House," affording ample supplies not only for the human dwellers in the establishment, but for legions of mice. Next to this was the scullery, with its coppers for boiling milk and porridge, and its extensive apparatus for holding plates, cans, and crockery.

So large an establishment as that of Sedgley Park, and one founded so strictly on principles of religion and charity, was sure to be a place of constant resort for the poor of the neighbourhood. Every day a number of poor objects repaired to the Park about the dinner hour,

and stood at the steps of the kitchen, where they were always relieved with broken victuals, reminding one of the good old days when the poor of Christ were fed at the gates of monasteries and religious houses in our land. The door leading to the tailors' and cobblers' shops was in like manner crowded with applicants for old clothes and shoes: so that the Park was never mentioned by the poor unaccompanied with blessings.

The female part of the establishment was, of course, under a housekeeper. In 1790, and some time before, this office was filled by Mrs. Pardoe; but in 1802 she left, and was succeeded by Molly Simpson, the wife of "Thomas the Tailor," much better known as "Molly Hag." This nickname, however, she was the only one who did not understand, and she had no idea of its applicability to her personal appearance. For one time she said to a boy named Charles Rattery, but whom she miscalled Ratcliffe:-"Ratcliffe, what do the boys call me Molly Egg "for? don't I give them eggs enough?" She was by no means either elegant in person, or liberal in providing for the boys; quite enough to account for her familiar appellation. She was succeeded, in 1806, by Mrs. Thorp, sister of the Rev. John Roe, and aunt of Rev. Jos. Birch, who held dominion of the regions below till her death, in the year 1818, and was followed by Mrs. Hemming, after whom came

Mrs. Perry, then in succession, Mrs. Cheadle, sister of "Francis the Cobbler," Mrs. Hawkins, and Mrs. Bird, the present housekeeper. Mrs. Thorp introduced better dinners, and various improvements in the culinary department; and was much liked and respected throughout her career at the Park. A few of the most noted female servants must be here recorded. Nanny Fletcher, first cook, and afterwards parlour maid for the "Big Parlour." She died at the Park on the very day on which she was to have been married to "Lewis the Cobbler," Lewis Grinsell, who also died there a few years after, as already related. Nanny Perks, housemaid and parlour maid, who was married to Francis Cheadle, by Mr. Walsh in 1805; the excellent servant, Hannah Gretton, who married John Crewe, the tailor, and is still living; Betty Butts, who died of small-pox in 1805; Haggy Pendril, a quiet, hardworking servant, who had a hare lip, so that she spoke almost unintelligibly, and who was of the family of the Pendrils connected with the preservation of King Charles II. One only survives of all the domestics of that period, and she is still a servant at the Old Place. Every Parker will at once know that this is good old Hannah Southall. In the year 1802, she first came to the Park very young, and used to be called "Little Hannah." She has lived on in service there ever since, and for a long series of years

had the care of a dormitory, and of the rooms of the superiors and strangers, and waited in the "Big Parlour." She has never been more than a few miles from the Park in her life; and has held on the same quiet, humble, unpretending career all her time. She has seen many changes in every department of the establishment. Sometimes there appeared danger, as she thought, of a change in her regard; but she used to say on such occasions: "If they " put me out at one door, I shall come in again "at another." And so she has kept on, always industrious, and always esteemed; and, in her old age, enjoying repose and universal respect. These were the most noted of the house and kitchen servants, of early date; but mention must be made of the good old cook, Sally, who was cook in Mrs. Thorp's time, then left the Park and married a Mr. Dovey. She returned to the Old Place afterwards, and was finally located and pensioned at Wolverhampton, where she is still living.

Beyond the scullery was the dairy, immediately under the infirmary. This was for many years under the charge of Betty Price, familiarly called "Betty Dairy" and "Betty Bottle." She milked the cows, with some helpers, made butter and provided milk for breakfast and supper for the boys; and she also waited upon the masters in the little parlour. She died at the Park in a good old age. The bakehouse was

at that time under the management of Betty Seagur, who was succeeded by Betty "Baker," as she was called from the boys not knowing her right name; she afterwards married William Simpson, the Tailor, and lived to a very advanced age. After her the baker was old Mrs. Southall, Hannah's mother. She was very deaf, and was never known by any other name than Mrs. "Cork." The boys used to go into the brewhouse to ask, or under pretence of asking, for a cork, to make a ball with. If the old woman saw them, she would often quietly give them a piece of new bread, which, by a very natural association came to be called "Cork," and of course the giver of it was named Mrs. "Cork," which name stuck to her even to her dying day, and was supposed by almost every one to be her real name. She also died at the Park, very old; and for some years had slept in the small room already described as having been the sacristy of the old chapel. The baking and brewing were afterwards done by a man, the well-known Charles Lloyd, who also looked after the pigs, whose styes were in the "Rookery," close by the bakehouse. In the laundry department, adjoining the bakehouse, a noted servant was Nanny Preston, a tall plain woman, with a large wen in her neck; but a thoroughly good creature, and a faithful and valuable servant, first in the laundry, and then as nurse in the Infirmary. Two other maids

well remembered in the laundry were Mary Long and Nanny White.

The Infirmary was a cheerful room, well lighted, and airy, between the "High House" and the pump. There was a cross old nurse who had care of it for a long time, a hard old hag, whose name was Ward, and who had but little of the kind feeling and tender management which are indispensable in an attendant on the sick. She died in 1810, and was succeeded by Nanny Preston, who made an excellent nurse, and after many years service at the Park, retired to Wolverhampton, and there died very old, in the year 1852. The usual medical attendant was a general practitioner, named Phillips, a rough disagreeable man, but esteemed clever in his profession. In difficult cases, Dr. Morrison was called in from Wolverhampton. The boys were generally very healthy; and the resources and treatment in the Infirmary were, as may be imagined, very simple and primitive.

Of the out-door servants, a few who were most remarkable deserve mention. The old gardener, John Moore, had usually under him one or two young helpers, and these were naturally his own sons, as they grew up. There was always a man, generally young, who laid the cloth and prepared and took care of every thing in the Refectory, and served the boys with beer, who, at this time, was Dick Roach.

He had succeeded an original character, whose name, curiously enough, was Tom Pike. This was a stout Lancashire man, six feet high, who suddenly appeared at the Park in a deplorable condition, and begged to be allowed to sleep in the barn. He offered to do any work for his maintenance, and what else they chose to give him. He was accepted, proved a valuable servant, and was never idle. Among other jobs, he cleared the field to the left of the "Bath Field" of a wilderness of brambles and saplings, reaching as far as three yards from the hedge, and planted it with potatoes, sowing between the rows, beans and peas. He was very devout in the chapel, and used to thump his breast vehemently. He would thrust his fist almost into the kitchen fire, and exclaim: "What mun yell be?" He left in 1802, and his successor, Dick Roach, was followed by that Bill Howell, who was so dreadfully kicked by the cart-horse, Boxer. The chief carter, or waggoner, was old William Waters, who afterwards died from a fracture of his thigh, caused by the waggon wheel going over him. After him there was a very steady and religious man, James Cope, and later on, Joseph Perks for many years. A very noted old labourer on the farm was Richard Collins, better known as "Richard the Thresher," whose wife, Molly, used to work also in the fields and about the house, and came up with Molly Moore on

Tuesdays to help her in selling "Socks." Molly Collins died April 18, 1840, only three weeks before her old friend Molly Moore. The farm at this time, and for several years after, comprised only the few fields in front, between the house and Goldthorn Hill Lane; but on the death of old butcher Kendall, in the year 1826, his house, and farm of about 150 acres, were taken also; and the farm at Longbirch given up. Old butcher Kendall from Bilston was the occupant of that farm in 1790; how long before that date is not known. The land rented by the Park before was about 40 acres; the "Butcher's" Farm, with one or two other fields near the "Fighting Cocks" public-house, made the entire occupation of the Park about 200 acres. The farm at Longbirch was about 70 acres.

The carpenters who used to work about the premises were, a tall sharp-featured man named Warford, and after him a sturdy little lame man, whose name was Morris, who continued in that capacity for many years.

## CHAPTER FIFTEENTH.

MR. WALSH, CHAPLAIN-REMOVAL OF MR. MOSELEY COURT - MR. MCNEAL'S ARRIVAL - OTHER CHANGES OF MASTERS-DEATH OF HARDY, AND OTHER DEATHS OF BOYS IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS-ARRIVAL OF MR. ROBT. RICHMOND-REMOVAL OF CHURCH BOYS TO OSCOTT-NEW BUILDING -- OSCOTT PURCHASED BY BISHOP MILNER -- EXAMINATIONS OF THE LECTURES BY BISHOP MILNER-HIS VISIT WITH BISHOP MOYLAN-CHANGES OF MASTERS-MR, WALSH REMOVES TO THE NEW ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, OSCOTT-HIS SUB-SEQUENT HISTORY AND DEATH.

- "Return, blest days, return ye laughing hours,
- "Which led me up the roseate steep of youth,
- "Which strewed my simple path with vernal flowers,
- "And bade me court chaste Science and fair Truth."

PERCY.

To resume the History of Sedgley Park, after describing every portion of the establishment, and noticing the principal persons in each department in and about the year 1803,—the first event of consequence after that date was the change again of the chaplain, or spiritual director, in October, 1804, when, as already related in Chapter Eighth, Mr. Simkiss left, and was succeeded by Mr. Walsh. His arrival

soon produced a marked improvement in the religious department, and created quite a new spirit of piety among the boys. His aspect gave at once the impression of his character as a holy man; and his preaching and catechetical instructions were full of zeal and unction, which could not fail of producing fruit.

He taught the boys the holy practice of meditation, much encouraged the reading of spiritual books, of which he had a good selection to lend out to them, and reformed their manners in playtime, forbidding the use of some few vulgar expressions, which had crept in among them, without any suspicion of evil on their part. The effects of Mr. Walsh's spiritual care were soon visible in the more devout behaviour of the boys in the chapel, and their more frequently approaching to the Holy Sacraments. Then were introduced the use of cassocks and surplices by the acolyths on Sundays; and the first two boys who wore them were William Foley and Thomas McDonnell. When Mr. Robert Richmond came, in 1806, Mr. Walsh availed himself of his useful aid in the spiritual instruction of the younger boys. These were some of the benefits derived by the establishment from the spiritual direction of Mr. Walsh. His manner was kind and engaging; he was affable without too much familiarity, and strict without severity; reminding one of the description given of Venerable Bede, that he was

of a "pleasing countenance, and serious with "a certain admixture of cheerfulness." Dr. Milner about this time had a little ornamental work done in the chapel, consisting of two pilasters on each side of the altar, and a sconce between the two, with a couple of branches for candles, one of which was lighted on each side from that time at Mass on week days, instead of the branches previously fixed at the ends of the altar.

Mr. Birch continued to teach French and Greek, with the more advanced classes in Latin, till August, 1807, when he retired from the Park to Moseley Court, which he had all along served from the Park, going thither for the Sundays and Holidays of Obligation. His successor at the Park was Mr. Mark John McNeal. who had been educated at the Park, and studied under Mr. Birch. He had left the Park for Oscott College with Henry Weedall, June 11, 1804, being at that time intended for the This intention, however, he soon after abandoned, and became a teacher at Baddesley Green Academy, from which he came to the Park as French, Greek, and Latin master, and remained there about seven years. Mr. Rimmer took the first Study, when Mr. Sumner left the Park in the year 1805. been already mentioned in Chapter Third, that Mr. Sumner had left the Park to pursue his studies for the Church at Lisbon College. But

he did not go farther than the reception of the Minor Orders, and was twice employed as a teacher subsequently at the Park, though the dates of his coming and going cannot now be ascertained. His second residence as a master ended in 1805, when he went to live at Manchester, as he had done before, and kept a school there. Mr. Rimmer left the Park at the end of 1805, and was replaced by Mr. James McStay, who was a native of Stony Stratford, in Buckinghamshire, and had been studying for the Church at Old Hall Green College. He came thence to the Park, took charge of the first Study, and taught Latin to the younger boys.

In the year 1804 came Thomas Laken, who removed to St. Mary's College, Oscott, in the latter part of 1809, or the beginning of 1810. He afterwards returned to the Park, as will be related in its proper place. One of the boys died in the year 1805, whose name was Hardy, and it was remarkable that he died at 12 o'clock on the 12th day of the 12th month, December, and was 12 years of age. The other deaths of boys which followed in the next five years, were those of Ralph Duffy, James Whelan, John Ward, and Wm. Lappage.

The Rev. Francis Martyn said his first Mass in the chapel at Sedgley Park, in December, 1805, being the first priest ordained from Oscott College. On the 6th of January, 1806, Mr. Robert Richmond returned to the Park, which he had quitted for Oscott ten years before, and began at once to teach Latin, as already mentioned in Chapter Ninth. On the 26th of March, 1806, three boys removed to Oscott College to continue their studies for the ecclesiastical state, William Wareing, William Foley, and Thomas McDonnell. They were taken to Oscott by Mr. Birch. Of the last some particulars have been already given; of the first two more will be recorded in connexion with the Park, as we advance in this History.

Dr. Milner had not yet possession of Oscott College; and he felt the want of more means of accommodating church students. Chiefly for this purpose he designed the large building which was erected in the "Big Garden" at the West end, and facing that which contains the Tailors' and Cobblers' Shops. This was begun in 1807, and opened in the year following. It comprised a large room below, used as the "Examen" Room, and also a laundry, which was at right angles with it, on the ground floor. Above these were six small rooms for students, with a little Oratory for their use, and a room for a master or professor, between which and the door was a small place boarded off, which was used as a "Bacon Room." Over all these was one large dormitory and a master's room. The Oratory was very small; but Dr. Milner exercised his peculiar taste in giving it a vaulted

ceiling with neat plaster work, as also pilasters and entablature at the altar end, and a window looking South filled with ground glass, bordered and relieved with stained glass, though of a poor modern character. The intention of that eminent and zealous prelate was never fully accomplished. His idea was to have a few ecclesiastical students prepared here under a priest, who should attend to them exclusively, and say Mass for them in the small Oratory. But in the following year, 1808, this building had hardly been occupied, when the College at Oscott was offered to Dr. Milner by the noblemen and gentlemen who had hitherto owned and managed it; and his Lordship gladly became its purchaser for the small sum of £600. He forthwith remodelled that establishment, so as to render it, what it has ever since been, the College of the District. The new building at the Park was then in great measure diverted from its original purpose; though it became very useful for the accommodation of church students in its little rooms, always called the "College Rooms;" and Mass was occasionally said in the little Oratory. The large room below was used for the half-yearly examinations, always called the "Examens," and Dr. Milner used on those occasions to examine the boys, particularly in their Catechism, and general knowledge of Religion. Knowing, too, that the only books of English History which

could be had in those days teemed with misrepresentations of our Holy Religion, he took these opportunities to give the boys clear and correct notions of those portions of English History which were most likely to be falsified. Thus he explained the true history of St. Thomas of Canterbury, and the origin and progress of what is called the "Reformation," and vindicated the character of Queen Mary; whilst he placed in its proper light that of her sister Elizabeth. At other times he would go through the history of the Gunpowder Plot, the Penal Laws, and those events which it was difficult for the boys to understand correctly, amid so many misrepresentations in almost every book within their reach. But these explanatory addresses were often varied by familiar lectures and experiments, particularly in electricity. He once made the boys join hands round the "Big Garden," to test the practicability of sending an electrical shock all round the circle.

When Bishop Milner had any particular friends or distinguished visitors with him, he took a pride in showing them the establishment of Sedgley Park. On one occasion, about the year 1809, he drove up in his gig, drawn by his favourite white charger, the eminent Bishop of Cork, Dr. Moylan. As they were going away, the boys came up to the rails under the lime trees, and begged for a whole playday, in

honour of their illustrious visitors. The good Bishop Milner stood up in his gig, and made the following proclamation: "Dr. Moylan, "Bishop of Cork, gives you a playday on "Monday!" The boys set up a tremendous shout, and the old charger took fright, and set off at full gallop, placing the two prelates in imminent danger; and it was only by the very skilful management of Dr. Milner that they turned the corner of the "Bounds" safely, and escaped, though very narrowly, the much greater danger of a concussion against the gatepost at the entrance of the lane. Providentially, however, they cleared it, and went up the lane at full gallop, though the spectators trembled at their narrow escape from an accident, which threatened to deprive the Church at once of two very eminent and revered prelates.

There were naturally changes frequently occurring among the Park masters. Mr. Worthy left at Midsummer, 1803, and Mr. Rimmer took his "Study." Mr. Palmer came, and had Mr. Rimmer's former "Study," close to the playroom stairs, but was very unqualified for the situation, and soon left. Mr. John Eldridge left in March, 1805, and was succeeded by Mr. Edward Richardson, who took his "Study," the second, or middle one, on the garden side. Mr. Eldridge had been at Douay College, as a Church student, and with the rest of the college was cast into prison at Dourlens, from which

he made his escape with eight others, one of whom was the late John Canning, Esq., who died in India, September 1, 1824. He afterwards studied at Old Hall Green; but giving up his intention of taking to the Church, he came as a teacher to the Park. A few years after leaving the Park, he became the master of the new poor school at St. Chad's, Birmingham, where he laboured with exemplary assiduity to the day of his death, July 13, 1831. In the year 1806, Mr. Singleton left the Park, and a little old-fashioned man came to be a master, whose name was Shard. He was a quiet, humble and respectable man, but very unfit to contend with rough school-boys, and did not long remain. He lived for many years afterwards at Wolverhampton, and had a standing invitation to come and dine at the Park on Sundays, as long as he was able. He became at length so feeble, that his sole daily exercise was to get up towards evening, and say his Morning Prayers, and then say his Night Prayers, and go to bed again.

Mr. Walsh had been chaplain and spiritual director at Sedgley Park four years, when Dr. Milner having purchased Oscott College, as already related, wished to place it under the spiritual superintendence of a priest so able and enlightened as Mr. Walsh, and accordingly he removed to Oscott, which was solemnly reopened as St. Mary's College, on the Feast of the

Assumption, 1808, from which dates the epoch of the "New Government" of Oscott. Mr. Walsh left the Park, August 8th, 1808. His subsequent history is too well-known to require in this place more than a brief outline. He continued in the same office of spiritual director to the college and congregation attached to the Oscott chapel till the death of the revered president, Rev. John Quick, which took place August 13, 1818, at the early age of 41. From that time till 1825, Mr. Walsh virtually presided over the College, with the assistance of Mr. Weedall, when being chosen coadjutor to Dr. Milner, he was consecrated Bishop of Cambysopolis by that illustrious prelate, in his chapel at Wolverhampton, May 1, 1825. the death of Bishop Milner, April 19, 1826, Dr. Walsh succeeded him as Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District. He afterwards transferred his residence to Birmingham, and shortly after to Nottingham, and lived there till he was translated to the London District in August, 1848. He died in London, February 18, 1849, aged 73, having been designated by the Holy See as the future Archbishop and Metropolitan of the restored hierarchy of England.

## CHAPTER SIXTEENTH.

DEPARTURE OF MR. RICHMOND—HIS SUBSEQUENT HISTORY
AND DEATH—MR. BOWDON, CHAPLAIN—ARRIVALS OF
NOTED BOYS—MASTERS—MR HARBUT'S DEATH AND
CHARACTER—CHAPEL NEWLY PAINTED AND DECORATED
—CARPENTER'S SHOP BUILT—JUBILEE OF GEORGE III.
—RETURN OF MR. FOLEY AS A MASTER—DEATH OF
MR. M°STAY.

When thy heart was young, and thy mind was gay,
And thou hadst not heard of ill,
And the sun that arose and went down on thy day
Was genial and lovely still,—
When thy youthful temples were wreathed with flowers,
How little to thee was the march of hours!

The autumnal leaf was as gay to thee,
When it floated and fell in the wind,
As the vernal bud and the blossom could be
On the flourishing plant reclined;
For thou wert reckless and young as they,
And alike to thee was their bloom or decay.

F. C. H.

When Mr. Walsh removed from Sedgley Park to Oscott, there was much speculation as to who would succeed him. Mr. Robert Richmond had been ordained priest on the 14th of March of the previous year 1807. He had

assisted very efficiently in the spiritual instruction of the boys, and had often preached and officiated in the chapel. Naturally, therefore, there was a general expectation that he would take Mr. Walsh's place as chaplain; and this arrangement had also been at first determined upon. It was afterwards decided, however, that Mr. Richmond should take the mission of Longbirch, and that the Rev. Joseph Bowdon, who had been there only a short time, should come to be chaplain at Sedglev Park. Mr. Richmond was much regretted, for a more worthy man could not easily have been named. He remained at Longbirch till November 25, 1811, when he was appointed spiritual director to the nuns at Caverswall Castle, where he remained eight years, and then returned to his previous charge at Longbirch, September 20, 1819. He remained there not quite two years, and early in July, 1821, he removed to Tixall, at the urgent request of Sir Thomas Clifford. In the summer of 1830, Mr. Richmond was appointed to St. Mary's College, Oscott, as spiritual director, vice-president, and professor of divinity, which duties he began on the 16th of August. After eight years of arduous and devoted labour in the college, he requested to be relieved, and resumed once more his old mission at Longbirch, to which he returned April 25, 1838. He undertook and accomplished the building of a new church at Brewood, to which the Congregations of Black Ladies and Longbirch were transferred, and on the Sunday after it had been solemnly opened he was taken ill at Sedgley Park, and died there on the 20th of June, 1844, in the 63rd year of his age.\*

The situation of chaplain and spiritual director at Sedgley Park was now entered upon by Rev. Joseph Bowdon, who arrived on the 8th or 9th of August, 1808. Mr. Bowdon was no stranger to Sedgley Park. His previous residence there, as a student and parlour boarder, has been already recorded, and while he was the missioner at Longbirch he frequently came to Sedgley Park. The boys were familiar with his appearance, and knew something of his He was remarkable for mildness and placidity; of quiet, gentlemanly manners, and extremely fond of children. It was this, and his preference for school or college life, that led to his being appointed to this important charge at Sedgley Park. The students soon became generally attached to him; for no one possessed more the art of winning the affections of young people. They missed, indeed, the animated and stirring sermons of Mr. Walsh, for Mr. Bowdon never attempted to preach, beyond reading either discourses of his

<sup>\*</sup> For all particulars of the edifying career of Rev. Robert Richmond, the reader may consult a small book:—"The Life of the Rev. Robert Richmond," 1845.

own composition, or others from books; and his reading was the most lifeless and unimpressive that could be imagined. But he surpassed Mr. Walsh as a catechist, and in the department of spiritual instruction he made up for his utter deficiency as a preacher. To the very end of his career, even after he became president, he delighted in having little boys to his room in the evenings, for that familiar instruction or rather conversation on sacred subjects, which is the surest method of training the minds of children, and securing their willing attention.

At this time of Mr. Bowdon's coming, the number of boys had increased to 184, and the school was in every respect in a very flourishing state. Mr. Harbut still discharged the duties of procurator and general director of the studies, though his health and strength were much impaired. The other masters were Messrs. McStay, Richardson, Cleminshaw, Wilson, Ball, and Eccles. On the 28th of September, 1808, came John Abbot and John Williams, from Bath, both distinguished ecclesiastics and Canons, in after days. George Rolfe, the present worthy president, came July 26, in the following year, 1809; and Michael Trovell, now Canon of Shrewsbury, came August 7, 1809. This and the following year were probably the most fertile in arrivals of new boys of any period of the school, for 48 came in 1809, and 52 in 1810. In the Spring of

1810, the whole number of boys was 185, but in the course of that year and the following, it reached its highest amount of 212. The masters at this time were Mr. McNeal, French, Latin, and Greek; Mr. John Caton, Latin; and six English masters, Foley, Edward Richardson, William Richardson, William Tuite, Thos. Ball, and James Bready.

Mr. Harbut, who had been at the Park almost from the beginning of the school, had never had robust health, and besides being crippled in his right hand, suffered from severe attacks of asthma. He became, in the Winter of 1808, very feeble, and generally kept his room. His countenance grew wan and ghastly, and his breathing laborious, and very painful to witness. He kept growing gradually worse till the 12th of May, 1809, when he finished a meritorious life by a tranquil and pious death, at the age of sixty-six. A portrait of him, by his great friend Mr. Paddey, the drawingmaster, hung for many years in the "Big Parlour," but is now in the Refectory. It is a poor stiff figure, but is a very fair likeness of good Mr. Harbut, with his straight combed gray hair, plain tied cravat, and long brown coat. Old Parkers, who had the happiness to know that worthy man, have always felt that his merits have never been fully recognised and proclaimed. There are some, says the Wise Man, of whom there is no memorial: who are

perished, as if they had never been; and are born, as if they had never been born.\* This, however, cannot quite be said of this venerable man; for Dr. Kirk in his account of Sedgley Park in the Catholic Magazine, + passed on him a well-deserved encomium in these words: "His many virtues and amiable qualities endeared him to all around him, and to none more than to those who were immediately under his tuition; and by the conscientious discharge of his duties, by his uniform and unaffected piety, by his edifying and encouraging example, and by the great length of time that he remained at the Park, he contributed very materially to the success and celebrity of the establishment." This, it must be remembered, is the testimony of one who had been at the Park in the threefold capacity of student, chaplain, and president, and had consequently had the most ample opportunities of testing Mr. Harbut's merits in his several relations with him. He was anxious, however, that Mr. Harbut's excellence should be more fully developed, and in a letter to the writer, he said: "I wish you would give a more detailed character of good Mr. Harbut; for being pressed for time, I was unable to say what his great merits deserved."

The great merit of Mr. Harbut was that constant, steady, uniform attention to his daily

<sup>\*</sup> Ecclus. xliv., 9.

<sup>†</sup> For August, 1834.

duties, for which he was so remarkable all through his lengthened career at Sedgley Park. There was nothing showy about him, no attempt at display, no wish to be noticed; but in the contented discharge of the same important, but unostentatious labours day by day, and year by year, was he ever the same good and faithful servant. He had come at first as a teacher; and often if a master happened to be ill or absent, or a master had left and his place was yet unfilled, Mr. Harbut would resume his former office and "mind his Study" as our phrase was, exercising again with patient assiduity his own admirable method of tuition. Every part of the house, though not under his immediate charge, ever shared his care and solicitude. If he knew that young boys especially were sent into the chapel to prepare for Confession, he would go in to see if they were behaving reverently, and would go to each boy to show him the proper place to read in his prayer book. Oftentimes he would come into the Refectory to "watch" in place of some absent master; and then he would, with thoughtful kindness, take out his pocket-knife and cut the bread for the little boys into long strips, so that they might more easily eat it or break it into their porridge cans. He was always at home and always at his post. Every one knew where to find him, and if it chanced that the two priests of the house were both

absent, he was always in the chapel to say the Night Prayers, and read Challoner's Meditation, which he did so distinctly, and with inflexions of voice so pleasing and appropriate, that it was always a treat much enjoyed to hear him read. He hardly ever went out for recreation; -once, however, he went, during the Summer holidays, into Lancashire; and so beloved was Mr. Harbut, that as he returned in a post-chaise, the boys welcomed him with loud shouts and greetings of joy, which sensibly affected him. He was a good scholar, though he made no display of learning; and at the "Examens" he used to give proof, not only of his acquirements, but of his admirable talent for conveying information to others. He examined shrewdly but kindly, and the boys were always well pleased when it fell to their lot to be examined by Mr. Harbut. Such was this excellent man, ever esteemed, respected, obeyed, and loved. A greater treasure such an establishment could not have possessed, and it was privileged to retain him for more than forty years. He had nurtured the establishment in its infancy, had seen it gradually grow and flourish, and had constantly fostered and promoted its advancement; and now that he had lived to see it reach its full prosperity, his mission seemed accomplished, his work was done, and the faithful servant went to hear the approving "Well done!" from his great Master,

and having been faithful in the few things of time, was set over the many and good things of eternity.

It was now eight years since the chapel had been opened, and it began to want painting and refitting. It had been first coloured blue, but in this year, 1809, it was thoroughly cleaned and decorated, and painted of a yellow sulphur colour, which, with the newly-introduced white plaster ornaments, looked remarkably well. The holidays were chosen as the most convenient time for doing up the chapel, and the boys, who remained at school were easily accommodated in the "Examen Room" in the new building, which was used as a temporary chapel for a few weeks, and made a very good one. It was at this time that the pictures of the Transfiguration, a very humble copy by Mr. Paddey, a long way after Raphael's famous painting, and a dark old picture of the Nativity, were placed over the doors of the Sacristies. One or two other paintings by Mr. Paddey were added, and some large engravings of the Doctors of the Church, with a coloured print in the middle of the right hand wall of West's painting of Christ blessing the little children. A good deal of white plaster work was introduced, such as an urn over the pilasters on each side of the altar, and above the urn, a cherub. Festoons and ox-heads were placed a little below the cornice on the

sacristy walls, and between the windows on the North side, and the corresponding arches on the other. These improvements added considerably to the beauty of the chapel, and gave it a very neat and chaste appearance, which was universally admired.

It was in the Summer of this year, 1809, that the building in the "Bounds' Piece" was erected, which contained cart houses below, and two rooms above, which were used as carpenters' shops, and repositories for wood.

In September, 1809, King George III. entered upon the 50th year of his reign, and a Jubilee was kept throughout his dominions to celebrate the happy event. The Park boys shared in the general festivities of the 25th of September. They had, of course, a whole playday, and were allowed for that day to fire off gunpowder and squibs. They mounted ribands, cockades, and various decorations and devices in honour of the Jubilee, and had an excellent dinner with plum pludding, and also cake instead of bread at four o'clock.

On the Epiphany, in the following year 1810, Mr. Foley returned to the Park as a master, having left it, as above related, four years previously, for Oscott College. He had not yet determined to resume his studies for the Church, and after leaving Oscott, had been an usher in a school at Fulham. On his return to Sedgley Park, he took charge of the first "Study," of

which Mr. McStay, till then, had the care. When Mr. Harbut died, Mr. McStay acted as procurator in his place, and carried on his "Study" at the same time. But this double undertaking was too much for his feeble constitution. He had rarely enjoyed good health, and now began to show symptoms of decline, which obliged him to give up teaching, and confine himself to the office of procurator. Mr. Foley was wisely averse to the frequent employment of corporal punishment, and indeed had recourse to it very rarely, and only in extraordinary cases of delinquency. He introduced a better system than the too constant and mechanical practice of feruling or "fishing" for every fault, little or great, and devised various other punishments which he proportioned to the offences. He was also very useful and popular in the "Bounds," by introducing gymnastic exercises, and encouraging games which afforded most exercise, and were most conducive to health. In teaching, he had far more method and a much better system than any master before him, which was soon evidenced by the rapid advancement of the boys under his tuition.

But in the meantime Mr. McStay's health declined rapidly, and he died on the 5th of August, 1810, at the early age of 25. He was not a man of great acquirements, but without knowing much himself, he certainly possessed the heart of making his pupils learn a great

deal: and there was so much earnestness as well as kindness in his manner, that boys studied willingly under him, and made much improvement. Some would study in their playtime to secure his approbation; and he used to hold out rewards to those who were willing to learn lessons in their play hours. No one knew better how to win the affections of boys than Mr. McStay, and often on Saturday evenings when the lesson of "Abstract"\* had been said, his boys would ask him to tell them some pious tale, or talk to them on some holy subject, which he would do with great pleasure, and in a feeling manner which rivetted their attention. He was always very devout and attentive to the duties of religion, and he made a very edifying preparation for death. He was indeed cut off at an early age, but he was mature in wisdom and virtue:

"What, though short thy date?
Virtue, not rolling suns, the mind matures.
That life is long which answers life's great end.
The time that bears no fruit deserves no name.
The man of wisdom is the man of years.
In hoary youth Mathusalems may die;
O how misdated on their flattering tombs!
Young.

<sup>\*</sup> The Abstract of the History of the Old and New Testaments, an excellent little work by Bishop Challoner, now sadly lost sight of.

## CHAPTER SEVENTEENTH.

INCREASED NUMBER OF BOYS—RETURN OF MR. SUMNER AS PROCURATOR—"COLLEGE FELLOWS"—THEIR AMUSE-MENTS—THE BATH—THE "PARKERANIA"—DEPARTURES OF MASTERS AND STUDENTS—AVERAGE STAY OF BOYS AT THE PARK—ILLNESS AND RECOVERY OF MR. BOWDON—LAST ILLNESS, DEATH, AND CHARACTER OF MR. SOUTHWORTH.

'Ορθῶς ἐστι τῶν νεων πρῶτον ἐπιμεληθῆναι, ὅπως ἔσονται ὅτι ἄρισοι, ὥσπερ γεωργὸν ἀγαθὸν τῶν νέων φυτῶν εἰκὸς πρῶτον ἐπιμεληθῆναι, μετὰ δὲ τοῦτο καί τῶν ἄλλων.

PLATO.

It is right to take care of youth in the first place, that they may become thoroughly good; even as a good husbandman makes the young plants the first objects of his care, and afterwards provides for the others.

The middle ages of Sedgley Park were by no means dark ages, or the least interesting periods of its History. With a fatherly and experienced president,—a chaplain of superior mind, who was an acute philosopher, a sound divine, and a wise instructor of youth, and with masters for the various "Studies," of acknowledged ability, it possessed every claim to confidence and patronage, and happily secured both. Of

this, the number of boys is the best proof. It was at this time, 1810, greater than at any period before or since; having reached, as already stated, the high number of 212. This number was in reality more than the house could conveniently accommodate, and various expedients were resorted to in consequence. In the chapel some boys were obliged to kneel at the altar rails as their regular place, retiring and kneeling in two lines down the chapel, when any communicants approached the rails; while others were obliged to be taken into the tribune. Beds were put up in every spare place, such as that opposite the procurator's office, and near the lumber room and "college rooms" in the new building; and in a few instances double beds to hold two boys each, but this was never done except in the case of two brothers. The diet of the boys had been much improved since the coming of the new housekeeper Mrs. Thorp; the masters were generally kind and considerate; and the "Bounds" exhibited that joyous troop of happy school-boys, which no other scene can equal for unalloved felicity:

"Alike to them Spring's transitory morn,
Or Summer's golden ray on wood or hill,
Autumn's bright footsteps on the waving corn,
Or Winter's stern approach and breezes chill."
W. PARKINSON.

In the year 1810 came John Marsden, afterwards a priest and missionary at Harvington Hall, where he died May 22, 1824. Thomas Green came April 30, who is now chaplain to Sir Edwd. Blount, at Mawley. In the autumn of this year, one of the masters, Mr. William Richardson, died at the Park, Oct. 13th. Mr. Sumner returned once more after Midsummer, to spend there the remainder of his useful and meritorious life. He undertook the office of procurator, so long held by Mr. Harbut, and which Mr. McStay had discharged since, as well as his weak state of health would permit. Mr. Sumner now entered upon its duties; which consisted of keeping the books, and writing out the accounts, providing school books, and placing boys as they came into the proper "Study," according to their advancement. He had also the general superintendence and regulation of the studies, the appointing of places, and moving the boys in the chapel, as vacant places were to be filled up by new comers. The procurator had also the care and distribution of the money for the boys, and ranked as third superior in the establishment, so that in the absence of the president and the chaplain, which sometimes happened, the executive power devolved upon the procurator.

The arrivals of new boys in the year 1811 were about the same as in the two preceding

years. Among them must be noted Radulphus Bagnall, the respected Vice-President of Oscott, who came to the Park January 10, and William Richmond, nephew of the Rev. Robt. Richmond. who arrived on the 15th of January. He was afterwards, for several years, on the mission at Swynnerton Park, and finally succeeded his lamented uncle at his new church at Brewood, where he died November 11, 1848, at the age of 50. Some young men were placed at the Park about this time, who were destined for the Church, but were too old to be in "Bounds" with the ordinary school-boys. These were styled "Patriarchs," and occupied the seven small rooms in the new building, always known as the "College Rooms," and themselves were most commonly designated in Park phrase as "College Fellows." They were not confined to any limits, but had the range of the "Big Garden" and all the grounds around the house, though required to ask leave of the president, if they wished to go into the town of Wolverhampton. They attended the ordinary study places in school hours, except two, Messrs. Benson and Marsden, who studied philosophy under Mr. Bowdon. Some of these did not continue their studies for the ecclesiastical state; but those who persevered were successively admitted into the College newly dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, at Oscott, distant about twelve miles. It deserves to

be recorded to the credit of the collegians, that of their own accord, and for their own improvement and preparation for the sublime state to which they aspired, they began a spiritual Conference, which was held every Sunday evening. At this little Conference, each in his turn delivered a short discourse of his own composition, after which some question was discussed relating to points of doctrine or morality. From this humble beginning, those of its members who subsequently became priests, have ever acknowledged that they derived substantial benefit.

These collegians wisely preserved their health and strength by various out-door exercises in their hours of relaxation from study. They used to pitch a heavy iron bar, and play at quoits in the "Bounds Piece," and perform feats with the leaping pole, and use a variety of gymnastic exercises. They hardened themselves by cold bathing, running down to the bath, which was two long fields off, early in the morning, and some of them keeping it up perseveringly all through the Winter, in the dark mornings amid frost and snow. Never before was the bath so much frequented, nor afterwards. It was after their time neglected, and finally broken up. There was a small pond round about the bath, and supplied from it with fresh water. This pond was well cleaned out by these young men, as a recreation in the Spring

of 1814, and well stocked with carp and tench brought from Longbirch. These fish remained in the pond two or three years, and then were all taken out much grown, and served at table, after which the pond shared the fate of the bath, being entirely neglected.

In the Autumn of 1813, Mr. Edwd. Richardson quitted Sedgley Park, after being there as a master from the year 1805. In the latter part of his time, he had studied medicine, and assisted constantly in the Infirmary. This was with a view to embracing the medical profession, and accordingly, after leaving the Park, he practised as an apothecary in London, where he died in a few years.

At one time a newspaper was brought out on Saturdays, edited by two amateurs, one a master, and the other a collegian. But as they found themselves obliged to furnish almost all the articles, it was not surprising that they grew tired of the task, and that the paper reached no further than its seventh number, which appeared June 4, 1814. It was called "Parkerania, or the Sedgley Park Register," and really contained many clever and amusing articles, though all, of course, were of mere local character and interest. As a specimen, the following is worth preserving.

## FUNERAL.

"With feelings of peculiar emotion and sympathy we communicate the sad intelligence of the death of

the favourite Hob Ferret, lately in the possession of a well-known Ratcatcher in this County. From the secresy with which every thing relating to the melan choly departure and funeral obsequies of the lamented deceased was conducted, we are unable to give a very satisfactory account. We are, however, informed that the poor ferret was reduced to such an extremity of suffering, that its fond master was obliged to break its skull, to put it out of misery. The following, as nearly as we could learn, was the order of the funeral procession, which was quite private. First came Old Warrilow, the cowman, with an inverted dung fork.

Betty, with a milk pail, in deep mourning.

The two rat dogs, Pot and Captain.

The Body, in a neat ferret-bag.

Hodge and Mat Pool, Ratcatchers.

A wheelbarrow, with two Jill Ferrets, wheeled by the noted Ratcatcher, Hatton.

Mat Pool's Bitch closed the Procession, which moved slowly from the Barn, along by the hay-stacks, and round the cowhouse corner, till it arrived at the grand pond, to which the body was gravely committed. We understand that an appropriate Elegiac inscription is to be affixed to the pump which stands in the well-known pond."

In the latter part of the year 1814, Mr. McNeal left the Park, after teaching French, Latin, and Greek there from the year 1807. French was then taught by Mr. Thomas Richmond, who had long been a teacher before at the Park, and he now came over for two days in a week from Codsall where he resided, to

<sup>\*</sup> One of the collegians, who kept ferrets for the amusement, as well as utility of clearing the premises of vermin.

teach those who learned French. At Christmas, 1814, George Jinks removed to Oscott, to continue his studies for the Church, which had been impeded by the necessity of retaining his valuable services as a master at the Park for a period unusually long. Mr. Thomas Stout had been engaged as a master in the year 1813, but proved very unfit for the situation, and left in January, 1815, being succeeded by Mr. Hutchinson. Another master, Mr. Norris, left in 1815, after being a few years a master at the Park, with great credit and ability. On the 7th of February, 1815, Edward Huddleston removed to Oscott College, who has been for many years the respected Missioner at Stafford, and is now a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter of Birmingham. It may be interesting to show, by an example from this period, the average duration of a given number of boys staying at the Park. It has already been mentioned that in the Spring of 1810, the number of boys was 185. In four years there remained of this number only 15, and in the following Spring of 1815, there were but 12 left. So that it was usually calculated that a generation of Park boys disappeared in about five years. If a boy staid five years, he was reckoned a Parker, but if seven, he was entitled to the honourable distinction of a Stager.

In the month of April, 1816, serious fears were entertained for the valuable life of the

chaplain, Mr. Bowdon. He was attacked with pleurisy, a malady to which he was subject, and was for a time in such danger, that Mr. Southworth administered to him the last Sacraments, and quite expected his death. Divine Providence, however, had other designs in his regard, and he happily recovered, and lived almost thirty years afterwards. But he recovered only to perform the like holy and solemn duties, but a short time afterwards, for good Mr. Southworth.

It was strongly rumoured in the early part of the year 1816, that Mr. Southworth was likely to resign the presidentship. This he probably desired from feeling his health impaired, and his strength declining. He had laboured hard, both mentally and physically, in his active and useful life, and he had begun to feel the effects upon his constitution. He fell ill at the beginning of June; his illness lasted but a week, but he gave great edification while he survived. He was most assiduously nursed and waited upon till his death by Mr. Foley, for whom he had a great regard. On Trinity Sunday, June 9, he remembered the day, and manifested his lively faith by desiring Mr. Foley to read to him the Creed of St. Athanasius, to which Mr. Southworth added some fervent Acts of Faith, and other virtues. He received the Sacraments most devoutly from the hands of Mr. Bowdon, to whom but two

months before he had himself administered them, and on Trinity Sunday, June 9, he calmly expired in the arms of Mr. Foley, who closed his eyes. His age was 66; his previous history has been already detailed in these pages, and he is more intimately bound up with the Park, than any other who has lived there. He had filled the office of president from the year 1781, excepting the interval of four years when he exchanged it for that of chaplain. His former colleague, Mr. Kirk, has passed the following deserved encomium upon him: "He died June 9, 1816, deeply regretted by a numerous acquaintance in death, as he had been respected during life, for his honest downright conduct, his unaffected piety, and his zealous and unwearied exertions for the promotion of religion in general, and in particular, for the welfare of the important establishment, so long and so beneficially under his direc-In the Orthodox Journal, for July, 1816, appeared a Memoir of him from the pen of an old Parker, Rev. T. M. McDonnell. It is too long to be transcribed here, but the reader will be well pleased to peruse it; and it pays a just tribute to the many excellent qualities of the good old president. He was a man of kind and tender feelings, fatherly in his manner, and full of paternal solicitude for the "children," as he always called the students.

<sup>\*</sup> Catholic Magazine, for August, 1834, p. '97.

They felt his death, as children bereaved of a parent, and it was with truth recorded in his obituary notice, that "the amiable qualities of this good and pious character were strikingly told by the unfeigned tears of his numerous pupils, on receiving the news of his death, who forsook their wonted play, and wandered about in groups, exhibiting the features of melancholy on their countenances, and deploring their loss of a beloved father, as well as a tender master."\*

Mr. Southworth was remarkable for a shrewd discernment of character, which eminently qualified him for the charge of a school, which is truly "a little world." In an eloquent and affecting tribute to his memory, in verse, by Mr. Joseph Green, delivered at Oscott College, the characteristic excellence of Mr. Southworth was happily expressed in a single line:

"In little actions uniformly great."

But this imperfect tribute to the memory of a man so worthy, a priest so holy, and a president so exemplary, cannot better be completed than by the touching lines of a beautiful "Ode to Sedgley Park," by one of its most devoted and most eminent sons, the present respected president of St. Mary's College, Oscott, Monsignore Weedle.

<sup>\*</sup> Orthodox Journal, June, 1816, p. 252.

- "Thanks to thy precepts—venerable sage,
  Who bent my early heart to virtue's sway,
  Sketched the rough features of a vicious age,
  Then bade me follow where thou led'st the way
- "Oh! could my lays, immortal as my theme, On Virtue's brow the fading wreath prolong, Then should my song ennoble Southworth's name, And Southworth's name should dignify my song.
- "Then should Oblivion, foe to absent worth,
  Pause where entombed thy mortal relics lie,
  Though no proud columns load the moss-grown earth,
  The Muse forbids the Virtuous man to die."

# CHAPTER EIGHTEENTH.

MR. BIRCH PRESIDENT-MR. WAREING'S SECOND COMING-REMOVAL OF CHURCH STUDENTS TO OSCOTT-ANECDOTE MR. SUMNER-DEPARTURE OF MR. SUBSEQUENT CAREER AND DEATH-MR. LAKEN'S ARRIVAL LEAVING AND DEATH-NEW MASTERS-BALL-PLACE RE-BUILT-DEATH OF MR. BIRCH-LINES TO HIS MEMORY.

> "My footsteps rove not where they roved, My home is changed; and one by one, The old familiar forms I loved Are faded from my path and gone."

> > MOULTRIE.

The name of Mr. Southworth was so long and so intimately connected with Sedgley Park, that it was not easy for those who watched it with anxious and enduring interest to imagine it going on without him. It seemed a difficult task to find a fit successor for a man every way so well qualified to preside over the establishment. The presidentship is understood to have been first offered to Mr. Bowdon, but respectfully declined. Yet a successor was found, and one who walked after the venerable president, most laudably and successfully. This was the

Rev. Joseph Birch, who had been long connected with the Park, had left it only a few years before, and had been a constant visitor since his removal to Moseley Court. He was, moreover, a very great friend of Mr. Southworth, Mr. Bowdon, and Mr. Sumner, well-known to all at the Park, and sharing the respect and confidence of all. He was a nephew of the venerable priest at Black Ladies, Mr. Roe, who had been twice chaplain at Sedgley Park. Bishop Milner also held Mr. Birch in high estimation, of which he gave proof by appointing him the successor of so worthy a man as Mr. Southworth.

It has been facetiously remarked that the name of Birch was an ominous one for a schoolmaster, and when there appeared upon the carts and waggons, Rev. Joseph Birch, Longbirch, the combination looked alarming. But no one stood really in terror of Mr. Birch; and he is not known ever to have had recourse to severity. Indeed, during his previous residence at the Park as French master, he was universally beloved as well as respected. So much so that when he passed down the passage between the Study Places, the boys used commonly to vie with each other for the privilege of shaking his hand. His accession to the presidentship was hailed with joy and enthusiasm by the whole house; he was the very man desired, and no appointment could have given greater satisfaction.

His removal to Sedgley Park rendered it necessary to provide for the chapel at Moseley; and the Rev. William Wareing came from Oscott College in July to reside at Sedgley Park, and to supply at Moseley Court on Sundays and Holidays, as Mr. Birch had done during his former residence at the Park. The venerable old Squire of Moseley Court, T. G. Whitgreave, had died in the early part of the year, and was succeeded by his son, G. T. Whitgreave, Esq. At Midsummer, Mr. John Caton left the Park. He had taught Latin there from about the time of Mr. Robert Richmond's leaving, as he came in the latter part of 1808. He had great ability as a teacher, but his manners were reserved and eccentric. When he left the Park, his eyes, which had long been weak, were so bad that he was reduced almost to blindness. It became necessary then to provide a Latin master, and an arrangement was made similar to that which had been followed in Mr. Birch's first time, by which Mr. Wareing taught Latin during the week, and went to do duty at Moseley Court on Sundays and Days of Obligation.

Some removals of Church students to Oscott took place at this time. James Duckett went to the College; and after his ordination in 1820, was for a short time at Botesdale, in Suffolk, and then removed to Brailes, where he has ever since continued an exemplary and laborious

missioner. T. J. Brownlow went to Oscott soon after him. He was a convert from Methodism; went through his course at Oscott with great credit, and was ordained priest also in the same year with Mr. Duckett, 1820. He has long been the respected missioner at Harvington. Mr. Bready had been formerly a boy at Sedgley Park, and had been engaged for some years as a master. He left the Park at Christmas, 1816, and was succeeded by a young man from Ushaw College, named Gorst. Mr. Sumner was equally comfortable under the new president, as he had been with Mr. Southworth. for he had always been very much attached to Mr. Birch. Indeed it would have been difficult to find any one who knew Mr. Birch. and did not feel respect and affection for him. So Mr. Sumner continued his duties as procurator, and took his daily walk round the "Big Garden," varied by an occasional stroll along his favourite field, the "Sparrow Piece," and on occasions few and far between a walk to Wolverhampton. It was his privilege to smoke his pipe after dinner in the "Big" or "Little Parlour," according as the dinner of the superiors was served, which depended upon whether there was company or not. When there were no guests the president, chaplain, and procurator dined with the masters in the "Little Parlour." This year, 1816, was the year after the memorable Battle of Waterloo, and the present writer

had made a tour of five months on the Continent, and had gone over the field of Waterloo with intense interest. He had, of course, brought away several relics, as every one did, from that famous field, such as bullets, pieces of knapsacks, twigs from Wellington's Tree, and such like memorials. Knowing Mr. Sumner's staunch loyalty and patriotic interest in England's triumphs, Mr. Foley, who had received one of these memorials, a bullet, from the writer, one day wished to present it to Mr. Sumner. But it was only after a most severe scrutiny into its authenticity that he would accept it. He said that he was well aware that every needy fellow in the neighbourhood of the place would be provided with all sorts of trumpery to sell to our English fools as relics, and that if one of them were to produce a boiled dumpling and swear that it was a cannon ball from Waterloo, some of our simpletons would buy it. Thus he went on in a strain, which those many Parkers who knew him, can well imagine, almost to the extinction of his pipe, denouncing spurious Waterloo relics. when at last he paused for breath, and Mr. Foley succeeded in getting in his assurance that the person who gave it, not trusting to the Flemish swindlers, did himself pick up the bullet in the garden of Hougoumont, then Mr. Sumner at once surrendered, and accepted it graciously and respectfully.

On the 4th of February, in the next year 1817, John Abbot left the Park, to prosecute his studies for the ecclesiastical state at St. Mary's College, Oscott. He is now the Missionary Rector of St. John's, Norwich, where he has laboured for upwards of twenty years, and is also a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter of Northampton. His place, as a master at the Park, was filled by Mr. Bowker, who had been a student at the school some years before.

Bishop Milner, who almost always attended the "Examens" at the Park, was, at the Christmas of 1816, very pressing for the addition of a little music to the usual exhibition of speeches, debates, and dialogues. Accordingly Mr. Foley selected some boys with good voices, and began to practise them, so as to be able to sing some pieces at the "Exhibition" in the ensuing Midsummer. This was the first beginning of musical performances at the "Exhibitions" at Sedgley Park. It was the first and last attempt on the part of Mr. Foley; for his career at the Park was now come to a close. He left it, to the deep regret of Mr. Birch, and, indeed, of all the inmates of the house, on the 10th of July, 1817. He first proceeded to Bath, whence he made an excursion to Exeter, his object being to hire a farm in Devonshire, in conjunction with a young man, Philip de Roure, who was much attached to him, and to whose

mother, Mrs. de Roure, a widow of good property and great respectability, Mr. Foley was engaged to be married. He felt, however, very sensibly the pang of separation from the old Park, and his old friends; and as it providentially happened that he could not meet with any farm to suit him, he soon began to have serious doubts as to the step he had taken, and the prospect before him. These wrought so powerfully on his mind, that before the month was out, he informed the writer of this History, in a very feeling letter, that he had a hundred thousand misgivings, and secretly resolved to get honourably out of his engagement. Then all his former inclination returned to consecrate himself to God in the ecclesiastical state; and having obtained a reluctant release from his promise of marriage from Mrs. de Roure, he reopened his negociations with Mr. Walsh, who had long urged him to decide on studying for the Church, and was received with a hearty welcome by the superiors, and all his old friends, at St. Mary's College, Oscott, October 1st, 1817. From that time Mr. Foley steadily persevered in his vocation, and was ordained priest, February 25th, 1820. He continued at Oscott three years, serving on Sundays and Holidays the small mission at Hopwas, near Lichfield. In the year 1823, in October, he left Oscott for Northampton, having been selected by Bishop Milner to begin a mission

and build a chapel there. This he did with wonderful zeal and success; so that he built a very neat chapel there, with a substantial dwelling-house attached, which is now the episcopal residence, and opened his chapel on the 25th of October, 1825. In 1830, he acted as president, pro tempore, of Oscott College, during the absence of Dr. Weedall, on a tour in Italy for his health. Mr. Foley returned the following year to Northampton; but left it again in 1839, to take charge of a little preparatory seminary at Old Oscott, after the removal of the College to the new building, about two miles distant. Mr. Foley's next charge was the mission at Hampton on the Hill, near Warwick, where he arrived November 11, 1841. Here his health began to decline, and he retired in hopes of recruiting it to his old favourite spot, Sedgley Park, towards the end of October, 1842. But he only grew worse, and was persuaded to remove finally to the New College of Oscott, at the end of November following. He died there, February 11th, 1843, and was the first buried at the Chapel of the College. Mr. Foley's long and useful services at Sedgley Park, his great merits, solid good sense, and many excellent qualities, establish a strong claim to this notice in a History of that establishment, to which he was ardently attached to the last hour of his life.

John Gascoyne came in 1818, and left for Oscott in the year following. In January, 1819, Rev. William Wareing removed to Cresswell, and Rev. Thos. Laken succeeded to his duties at Moseley and at Sedgley Park. He had been a student at the Park from 1804 to the latter part of 1809, or the beginning of 1810, when he removed to Oscott College. He was obliged to leave the Park again in 1827, from failing health. He served the chapel at Glossop for a few months, but became so subject to epileptic fits that he left it in June, 1828. He then went to London, Baddesley Green, and other places, finally retiring to Guernsey, where he died, September 22, 1832. A Memoir of him, and some Lines to his memory, were contributed by the present writer to the Catholic Magazine for that year.

Mr. Foley had long had charge of the first "Study" at the Park; which, when he left, was taken by Mr. Joseph Kirk, nephew of the former chaplain and president, Mr. John Kirk. He left in March, 1821, and Mr. Wm. Lucas succeeded him. Mr. Jasper Craven returned to the Park in Midsummer, 1822, and taught Latin and French, having studied at Ushaw College, after his first leaving Sedgley Park. The masters were very efficient and attentive at this time, and the worthy president, Mr. Birch, kept a vigilant eye upon them, to ensure their assiduity in all their duties, whether scholastic

or religious. He kept up good discipline, indeed, in every part of the establishment; and this he did without harshness or severity. Every one saw the reasonableness of his regulations, and cheerfully submitted to them. other hand, Mr. Birch studied the comfort and happiness of all under his care. In his earlier days, he had been fond of the usual exercises in the "Bounds," and excelled in most of them. He was very fond of bat and hand-ball. The "Ball Place" had been originally built by Mr. Kirk, some thirty years before, but many of the bricks had got loose, and the walls were every where out of repair. Mr. Birch therefore took it down, and rebuilt it upon the old foundations, but raised it higher than it had been before.

The Park rejoiced in possessing such a president, and went on satisfactorily under his judicious management. But little did any of its inmates foresee how soon he would be taken from them. He had been president not quite five years, when, in the month of May, he became so alarmingly ill, that Mr. Bowdon did not expect him to survive a fortnight. His disorder began by severe attacks of indigestion, and these induced atrophy and decline. He went to Bristol, at Midsummer, to try change of air and relaxation; but all was in vain. He kept growing worse till the Autumn, and died at Bristol, October 1, 1821. He is interred in

the vault under the Chapel in Trenchard Street, in that city. His age was only 45. He was a man who secured respect and affection wherever he came; and deserves in this place to have his worth recorded in no measured terms. The writer, however, thinks that he cannot better gratify his own affection and veneration for Mr. Birch, nor write any thing better or more calculated to enable the reader to form a just estimate of his character, than by inserting the Tribute which he paid to the memory of Mr. Birch on learning his lamented decease.

"Fidelis servus et prudens, quem constituit Dominus super familiam suam."

Τ.

There is a knell that marks the fatal hour, And deeply tolls when virtuous souls depart:-'Tis not the knell that shakes the time-worn tower, No;-'tis the deep pulsation of the heart, Silent, yet mighty in the mourner's part. There is a mournful colour that can speak More strongly than the sable weeds we seek, To tell our anguish for the friend we loved: 'Tis the cold whiteness of the changeless cheek, Cold as the clay it mourns,—save when a tear, Warm from the weeping eye, shall trickle near, And bathe it for a moment:-these, though weak, Are eloquent in words of wo to say-Moving, though silent, powerful, though meek, How much we loved and prized the friend now passed away!

#### TT.

And these have mourned for thee! and many a heart Has throbbed and deeply struck thy funeral knell, And many a pallid cheek, when thou didst part,

All it had lost in thee could sadly tell; And on thy memory long shall many dwell: Who held thee dear in life. For 'tis not here As if a few had wept who loved thee well. A few had hung in anguish o'er thy bier; They who by kindred ties were bound to thee, And mourned thy loss in nature's agony. Thou wert a guardian sire of many sons: A brother and a friend shall numbers say They found thee in thy short, but brilliant day, Chosen by God to feed his little ones. Prudent and faithful servant! thou wert blest And loved in life; -and in eternal rest. Thy faithful care on earth has wrought a gem Transcendent in thy heavenly diadem. Thou art not now, still journeying on, as we Poor faultering pilgrims in a world of strife; Thy pilgrimage is done,—and thou art free, Free as the unfettered hosts above, who see God as he is, and from that source of life Drink of unchanging bliss throughout eternity.

#### III.

Who now may trust to life?—Or who may build Projects on blooming health, for coming days, Or who may hope that mellowing age will gild

Man's joyous noon with age's evening rays? For we have seen life's best and purest blaze Quenched in its noontide splendour; and its sun Eclipsed a moment, and then sadly sunk Behind the pall that told his days were done,—His whom we mourn: and we, short-sighted things,

We saw the flower expand in bright display,
Yet could not see the worm corrode its way,
Ere it had forced its ravage on our sight.
And the fair flower declined and faded slow,
Slow, but alas! too certain,—and the blight
Bowed down its blooming head, and brought it low.
Farewell, then, friend and brother!—may we learn,
Taught by thy early grave, how frail is man;
Taught by thy bright example, may we turn
To heaven our only thoughts; and while we can,
Faithful as thou, throughout life's little span,
And well each talent, every grace employ,
To hail at length with thee, the Lord's immortal joy.

# CHAPTER NINETEENTH.

MR. BLOUNT PRESIDENT—CLERGY MEETINGS AT THE PARK—DECLINE OF DR. MILNER'S HEALTH—CONSECRATION OF HIS COADJUTOR, DR. WALSH—VISIT OF EIGHT BISHOPS—CHANGES OF MASTERS—DEATH OF DR MILNER—LINES TO HIS MEMORY—SEDGLEY CHURCH RE-BUILT—REMOVAL OF CHURCH STUDENTS TO OSCOTT—DEATH AND CHARACTER OF MR. SUMNER—SUCCEEDED BY MR. KNOWLES—MR. BLOUNT'S FAILING HEALTH—MR. BOWDON PRESIDENT—DEATH OF MR. BLOUNT.

"So gleams the past, the light of other days,
Which shines, but warms not with its powerless rays;
A night-beam Sorrow watcheth to behold,
Distinct, but distant, clear,—but oh, how cold!"

BYRON.

On the lamented death of Mr. Birch, the presidentship was at once offered by Dr. Milner to Mr. Bowdon, but he again declined it, alleging his want of age and experience for an office of so much responsibility. The Bishop was then induced to appoint the Rev. Walter Blount President of Sedgley Park. Mr. Blount was certainly a pious priest and a zealous missioner, but he laboured under the disadvantage of not having been educated at the school; and none but a Parker could have the proper

knowledge or feeling for the due management of that important establishment. Mr. Blount was fond of farming, and that part of the concern he looked well after; but in the scholastic department, and general discipline, he was far from being an efficient president. It was soon a subject of remark among the masters, that he knew much less of persons and places about the Park, and of its usages, than they should have supposed in one who had lived so near, and been so frequent a visitor. He was, however, a very kind, agreeable man, and was received favourably, and generally liked. Mr. Bowdon and Mr. Blount were great personal friends, and thus Mr. Bowdon was well satisfied to receive him at the Park as president.

The Meetings of the Clergy had been hitherto held triennially, at the Bishop's house in Wolverhampton. But the clergy had become too numerous to be accommodated there, and it was in consequence arranged to hold the Clergy Meetings at Sedgley Park, and also to hold them annually, and soon after Easter. They began to be held at the Park in the year after the commencement of Mr. Blount's presidentship; and the first took place on the 8th of May, 1822. Dr. Milner and 33 priests were present at this Meeting. The Bishop in his address to his clergy on this occasion censured the conduct of the priest, who attended Napoleon on his death bed, for not requiring of him

a public retractation of certain parts of his conduct, by which he had given public scandal. He spoke much also of Catholic politics, impressing upon his clergy the necessity of being upon their guard against Vetoistic proposals. The clergy afterwards dined in the Examen Room, and all were well satisfied with their entertainment. Before the clergy separated, there was a discussion as to where the Meeting should be held in the year following. Oscott was proposed, but the general opinion was that no fitter place could be found than Sedgley Park; and the Clergy Meetings have been held there ever since, though the dinner, as the numbers increased, was of necessity served in the Refectory. At the Meetings in 1823 and 1824, there were present 34 priests each time.

Towards the close of the year 1824, Dr. Milner's health was evidently breaking up, and at the Clergy Meeting, on the 27th of April in the year following, he announced, in a very feeling manner, his sense of his approaching dissolution, to the assembled priests, and also the speedy consecration of his appointed coadjutor, Dr. Walsh. The coadjutor was consecrated Bishop of Cambysopolis at Wolverhampton, on the 1st of May, 1825, by Dr. Milner, assisted by the other three Vicars Apostolic and their Coadjutors, who were the following:—Dr. Poynter, V.A., of the London

District, and his coadjutor, Dr. Bramston; Dr. Smith, V.A., of the Northern District, and his coadjutor, Dr. Penswick; Dr. Collingridge, V.A., of the Western District, and his coadjutor, Dr. Baines. So that each Vicar Apostolic had now a coadjutor, and there were eight Bishops assembled on this memorable occasion. It was a time to be remembered also at Sedgley Park, on another account. Dr. Milner brought up all these prelates to visit the Park. The boys of course did not lose so precious an opportunity, but petitioned Dr. Milner for a whole playday for each Bishop. His lordship could not refuse even so extravagant a petition, on an occasion so extraordinary; and, accordingly, the boys had eight whole playdays granted, but they were to take them out at the rate of two in each week. They sunk one, however, by the injudicious choice of Mondays and Fridays for these playdays, not foreseeing that one of the Mondays would be Whit Monday, which at that time was a Feast of Obligation.

The principal changes of masters, to be noticed about this period, were that Mr. Toovey, who went to reside at Wolverhampton, in the year 1824, about the month of March, and was succeeded by Mr. Joseph Norris, who had been a master about ten years before. Mr. Charles Smith, formerly a boy at the Park, returned as a master in the latter part of 1825. In the year 1826 came Mr. Richard Abbot, who had

been a boy at the school about twenty years before, and soon after him came Mr. Tierney.

The health of the venerable and illustrious Bishop Milner continued to decline; and he became seriously ill in April, 1826. Fully aware of his approaching end, he prepared for it with firmness and resignation. Of this the writer feels a mournful satisfaction in recording an edifying proof. He had requested permission to dedicate his first work of Controversy, the Defence of the Doctrine and Discipline of the Catholic Church against Blanco White, to his revered prelate. He received a short letter in answer to his application, which he has carefully preserved. It is written in a tremulous hand, almost illegible, and dated March 20, 1826; and was nearly, if not quite, the last letter he ever wrote. Its contents are very edifying, and worthy of the immortal Milner.

"Dear Sir,—I have received yours of the 16th Inst., in answer to which I say, that it is of no consequence to me whether my name does or does not appear at the head of your book, having so very little time to remain in this sublunary scene. Consult, therefore, on this and on every other point, the greater glory of God and the good of souls. Every thing else is Vanitas Vanitatum.

I am,

Your faithful friend and Servant in Christ,
Wolverhampton, March 20, 1826. + J. MILNER.

P.S.—I need not add that I beg, both alive and dead, for your prayers."

It was now the time of the Annual Meeting of the Clergy at Sedgley Park. The Bishop was dying at his house in Wolverhampton, and his devoted and afflicted clergy, who had arrived for the Meeting, almost all went to see him on his death bed, and beg his last Blessing. The Meeting was held on the 19th of April, and while the Clergy were at dinner afterwards, the sad tidings were brought that the Bishop had expired. They instantly rose, and returned to the Chapel, to pray for his departed soul. His death was most holy and edifying; and his coadjutor was most assiduous in his attendance upon him. Dr. Walsh afterwards declared, that "never did virtue appear more amiable, never did Religion seem to afford more solid consolation on the awful occasion of a deathbed, than in the last moments of the deservedly lamented, and of the truly just, Dr. Milner. Bishop Milner died at the age of 73, having been Bishop 22 years. His early connexion with Sedgley Park, his constant affection for it, and his many benefits and exertions to promote its welfare, render it a duty and a pleasure to pay a tribute in this History to his illustrious memory. The following lines appeared in the July Number of the Catholic Miscellany of that year.

### LINES TO THE

MEMORY OF THE RIGHT REV. DR. MILNER.

When Israel's leader, Machabeus, fell,
Though Glory's arms received the noble dead,
Then did a nation's wailing loudly swell,
And sorrow's bursting cry was widely spread:
How is the mighty fallen! The laurelled head,
Hoary with triumphs, though not white with years,
Sunk to the dust,—the richest life-blood shed!
Stretched with the lowliest Juda's pride appears,
And Israel's strength is mourned with unavailing
tears!

Such is our sorrow:—Juda's fate is ours,

To weep our chieftian and our leader lost!

He who long years had watched on Israel's towers,

Armed for the coming foe, himself a host,

The flock's firm pastor, and Religion's boast

Yields to pale Death, an unresisting prey:

And though to Angel's hands he yields the ghost,

And Glory gilds him with her quenchless ray,

Deep is the grief that mourns great Milner passed

away!

Our father,—more than father,—whom we loved
More fondly than a child can love his sire,
With fervour such as that lone prophet's proved,
Who watched his master borne on wheels of fire,
Following his radiant course with warm desire;
And with a tone of bitterest anguish cried,
As the resplendent car still mounted higher,
My father! Israel's chariot and his guide,
Why hast thou left thy son, thus vanished from his
side!

Religion mourns: he that upheld her cause,
That loved her in her darkest days of wo,
And braved the bold deriders of her laws,
His mighty arm has drooped, his head lies low,
The poor man weeps, whose bliss it was to know,
In him an advocate, to life's full end;
And often to his grave shall many go
Dejected mourners, and in anguish bend
O'er the cold stone that hold their father, guide and
friend.

Pastor of Heaven's high choice! Thy sheep lament,
Bereft of thy sure guidance, and thy care:
How many of thy watchful hours were spent,
To guard them from the wolf, and hidden snare.
Where danger threatened, thou wert promptly there:
Thou didst support the feeble, feed the strong;
The wanderer homewards thou wouldst gladly bear,
And place him joyfully thy flocks among,
Now they are left to mourn thy sad departure long.

Farewell thou best of prelates! thy great name
Shall live embalmed in many a fervent breast,
He who has here essayed to hymn thy fame
Long by thy favour cheered, and presence blest,
Prays for thy parted soul eternal rest!
And where the just made perfect ever dwell,
There be the unfading crown by thee possessed;
There may thy voice with hymns of glory swell,
Pastor revered and loved; father and friend,
FAREWELL!

June 2, 1826.

The view from the back of the house at Sedgley Park is very beautiful. The large village of Sedgley is partly seen on the summit

F. C. H.

of a range of hills stretching out towards Himley on the West, and towards Dudley and Birmingham on the Eastern side. Sedgley Church was always a most pleasing and picturesque object, crowning the eminence in the centre of the prospect. It had a very beautiful spire, of admirable proportions, and the windows in the spire corresponded so exactly on the North and South sides, that they gave it the appearance of having two large apertures one above the other, and the light showed through both, as the church was seen from Sedgley Park. The church had, however, become sadly out of repair, and in the year 1828, most of it was rebuilt, and a new spire erected. This is far from possessing the symmetry and beauty of the old spire, the loss of which, as a picturesque object, has always been deeply regretted by the inmates of the Park.

Dr. Walsh, the new Bishop, took up his residence for several years at Wolverhampton, in the episcopal mansion where Dr. Milner had lived, called Giffard House. Following the good custom of his illustrious predecessor, he attended the Examens and Exhibition at Christmas, 1826, and assured the present writer that he was, as well as all the company there, delighted with the performance.

On the 22nd of April, 1827, Mr. Thos. Turner died at the Park of consumption. He had been a long time there as a boy and a master, and filled

his situation at all times with great credit. His death was holy and edifying, and he was much regretted. In the latter part of November of the year following, the number of boys had decreased to 89, the lowest number to which it ever declined. The causes for this decrease, says the old president, Dr. Kirk, "must strike every observer of the times. Schools are now established in almost every congregation, and even boarding schools in several, where, in consequence of the distress in the manufacturing and agricultural districts, many of these now receive education near home, and at a trifling expense, who would, in other circumstances, have been sent to Sedgley Park. In other respects we are assured by those, who for many years have attended the half-yearly examinations, that at no former period of their observation, were the spiritual and literary education of the boys committed to more zealous and efficient teachers."\*

Though the number of boys was low, in the early part of 1829, not exceeding 111, the school went on extremely well, and there were, at this time, some of the finest and best behaved boys that had been ever known at the Park. They had much better fare than in former times, and seemed very happy and contented, making no complaints; and there was certainly no school where they were better taken care of

<sup>\*</sup> Catholic Magazine for 1832, p. 497.

in case of illness. The masters were superior and better men than they had often been, and besides giving satisfaction in their teaching and care of the boys, gave good example by attention and regularity in their religious duties. It was evident also, that the boys derived great benefit from the little ecclesiastical establishment in the "New Building," as the young men edified them by their conversation and good example. Among the masters at this time was Mr. David Strongitharm, a brother of the able missionary at Norwich.

In the Spring of 1829, Mr. Richard Abbot left the Park, where he had resided as Latin master about three years. In the Autumn of 1830, John Dalton removed to Oscott, with some other ecclesiastical students, among whom were Walter Keen and Thomas Revill. Ten church students had gone to the College in that year from Sedgley Park. In January, 1832, there was evident improvement in numbers, and in January, 1834, the school was comparatively full, and doing well. Mr. Chas. Smith left Sedgley Park, October 21, 1833, and went to reside at Wolverhampton. In September, 1829, the number of boys had increased to more than 120.

The chaplain, Mr. Bowdon, had several years before, by the failure of a relative, lost all his property, which was considerable. This deprived him of the means of educating students at the Park, assisting poor priests, and contributing to the erection and support of chapels and schools; and on this account alone did that good man regret his adverse fortune. But about the year 1826, he became the head of his family, and inherited property which made him richer than before; and again he devoted his increased means to the sacred works of religion and charity. He delighted in affording pleasure to a poor priest, or a needy friend, by some unexpected act of generosity. His most intimate clerical friend was the Rev. Richard Hubbard, then the missioner at Longbirch, who often came over to see him at Sedgley Park. Hearing, on one occasion, that Mr. Hubbard intended to come to Wolverhampton to settle some little bills there, amounting in all to £13, which was a large sum to a poor priest, Mr. Bowdon ascertained what his friend owed to various tradesmen, and paid all his bills before he came. Then when Mr. Hubbard came, he went with him from house to house, highly enjoying his friend's surprise at finding all his little debts already cancelled. To make Mr. Hubbard's journeys less fatiguing, Mr. Bowdon gave a standing order for a Car or Fly to be at his service at all times, at his own expense. A thousand similar acts of ingenious kindness and benevolence might be recorded to the praise of Mr. Bowdon: but more traits of his generous character will appear in the sequel.

The worthy procurator, Mr. Sumner, became seriously ill in the Spring of the year, 1834. Taking his favourite walk one day, in that field on the left of the "Big Garden," called the Sparrow Piece, he had a fit, and was found lying on the ground and brought home. After this he was attacked more seriously, took to his bed, and became dangerously ill. He was attended by Mr. Bowdon, and from him received the rites of the Church. His illness soon terminated in his death, which took place in the morning of the 24th of April, 1834. Mr. Sumner was 69 years old, having been born in 1765, at Newburn, in North Carolina, but brought over to England when only two years old. He had spent the greater part of his life at Sedgley Park, though at four different periods. Since the year 1810, he had uninterruptedly discharged the duties of procurator. He left about £3,000 to his relations, except some small legacies, and £100 to the Rev. Thomas Tysan, of Sedgley, in whose church he was buried, by his own desire, and where a tablet was placed to his memory, with an epitaph by the present writer, who also inserted a biographical memoir of him in the Catholic Magazine for June, 1834. Mr. Sumner was a man of sound sense, and well informed on most subjects. He had been intended for the ecclesiastical state, and had gone through his course of divinity, and received the Minor Orders at

Lisbon College. What led to his abandoning his intentions towards the priesthood has never been ascertained, but is supposed to have been an over scrupulosity. He was grave, reserved, and incommunicative upon his own history. But it was generally understood that he had met with some heavy trials and disappointments after leaving College, which rather influenced his manners, and made him show some irritability of temper in after life.

"And o'er that fair broad brow were wrought The intersected lines of thought; Those furrows which the burning share Of sorrow ploughs untimely there; Sears of the lacerating mind Which the soul's war doth leave behind."

Byron.

At this time Mr Knowles was one of the masters at the Park, and was chosen as a fit person to take the office of procurator, on Mr. Sumner's decease. On the 17th of September, 1835, one of the masters died at the Park, Mr. David Strongitharm, younger brother of Rev. Laurence Strongitharm, of St. John's, Norwich, who had before him died in 1827. At this time there were only four masters at the Park; and another was sought for very anxiously.

About the middle of November, 1835, the president, Mr. Blount, became very low-spirited and melancholy. On Christmas Eve, he went

for a little change and recreation to Stafford, to the house of the Rev. Edward Huddleston; where he at first seemed to improve, but he returned to the Park on the 11th of January, complaining that he grew no better. He appeared then to be declining so fast, that both Mr. Bowdon and Bishop Walsh thought he could not long remain in his office of president. His mind became depressed, and he grew scrupulous and more melancholy. His bodily health, however, was not much affected, and at times he was cheerful; but in February, he grew worse as to his mental affection, and as there appeared no chance of his recovery, it became quite necessary to think of a new president. It has been mentioned at the beginning of this Chapter that on the death of Mr. Birch, the presidentship was offered by Dr. Milner to Mr. Bowdon, as it is believed to have been previously on the death of Mr. Southworth; but that he had in each instance declined so responsible a situation. It did not follow, however, that he would always be unwilling to undertake it. Fifteen years had now been added to his age, and had much increased his experience; and he certainly now possessed every qualification for the office of president. Mr. Bowdon consulted an intimate friend upon his fitness for the presidentship, and was advised by all means to accept it, if offered. Meanwhile the Bishop, who was in London,

received a hint from a confidential quarter, that Mr. Bowdon would be much hurt if the presidentship were not offered to him; and in consequence of this, he wrote a very kind letter to Mr. Bowdon, and proposed it to him. Mr. Bowdon at once accepted it, and was regularly appointed President on the 12th of March, 1836, on which occasion the Bishop assured him that he should not have made any other appointment without first consulting him. Mr. Blount expressed great joy and satisfaction at this appointment of his old friend and companion; and from that time resigned all duty, and refrained from any interference, though he still remained in the house. Mr. Bowdon treated him most kindly, and generously proposed to allow him £20 a year out of his own pocket, besides what the Bishop might give him from of any Funds at his disposal. Mr. Blount remained at the Park till January, 1837, when he left it for the Convent at Princethorpe, where he had only to say Mass for the community. But in June of the same year, his mind failed so much, that it became necessary to place him in the Asylum at Stafford, where he remained till August, when he finally removed to Stourbridge, to the house of his sister, and there he died on the 9th of April of the following year, 1838, at the age of 73. He was buried in Mr. Bowdon's vault, at the Chapel, in Wolverhampton. Mr. Blount was

a most kind-hearted man, and a good manager, so that he saved a considerable sum for the Park during his presidentship. It must be owned, however, that this was done to the great injury of the buildings, both within and without, which were suffered to go too long without repairs. But there was much uncertainty at that time about the permanent occupation of the house, and Mr. Blount was unwilling to lay out money on the place till he could feel secure of the school continuing there.

### CHAPTER TWENTIETH.

MR. BOWDON PRESIDENT—LEASE OBTAINED—IMPROVEMENTS AND ALTERATIONS—SKATING POND MADE—ILLNESS AND RECOVERY OF MR BOWDON—REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUED—CHANGES OF MASTERS—LODGE BUILT—LOBBY OPENED TO THE CHAPEL—SOCIETY OF "ASSOCIATED PARKERS" FOUNDED—SONG WRITTEN FOR THEIR FIRST MEETING—ILLNESS OF MR. BOWDON—DEGREE OF DD. CONFERRED UPON HIM—DECLINE OF DR. BOWDON'S HEALTH—HIS EDIFYING SENTIMENTS—HIS DEATH AND CHARACTER.

"In age we feel again that love of our native place and our early friends, which, in the bustle or amusements of middle life, were overborne and suspended. . . . . In our walk through life we have dropped our companions, and are now to pick up such as chance may offer us, or to travel on alone."

JOHNSON.

Mr. Bowdon entered upon his new office of president of Sedgley Park with every advantage. He had resided there in all three and thirty years, had watched the establishment under four presidents, in all its vicissitudes of good or adverse fortune, and had become thoroughly acquainted with all the details of its management. He was not a young man, but mature in years as in experience; he possessed sound judgment and acute discernment

of character, with a habit of deliberation which secured him from precipitate measures or conclusions. He possessed the affection and confidence of every inmate of the house, from the highest to the lowest; and what is no small advantage to an establishment like that of the Park, he possessed an ample fortune, of which he was sure to devote a considerable portion to the benefit of the school. He was exceedingly attached to Sedgley Park, and remarked to a friend shortly after becoming president, that if he were to have his life over again, he should wish the greater part of it to be spent, as he expressed it, at the "dear old Park."

Mr. Bowdon's first care was to secure the occupation of the premises by obtaining a lease. In this he succeeded so well, that on Nov. 13, 1836, a lease was granted of the house and farm for twenty-one years. The agent of Lord Ward engaged to put the farm buildings into complete repair, while Mr. Bowdon undertook to repair the house, and principally the old and venerable centre building, the "High House."\*

<sup>\*</sup> The original rent of the house, when first taken in 1763, was only £20 a year, as appears from the following entry by Mr. Kendal: 1763, October 31.—To my Lord Dudley for half a year's rent due at Michaelmas, £10.

The first year's balance of receipts and expenditure is as follows:

Received				
Balanced April 11, 1764 Four years later is the following entry:	£1	3	$5\frac{1}{2}$	
Total received since September 23, 1767, to April 19, 1768	775 765			
Balance	£9	13	4	

Secure now in his occupation of the "old place," Mr. Bowdon began at once the much wanted repairs, alterations, and improvements. He began also immediately to improve the system in the Kitchen and Refectory, so that the boys had a more liberal allowance of food, and were better served. He did away with the old tin cans and pewter plates, and substituted white basins and cups, and plates of white earthenware. He at the same time introduced blacking for the old plan of greasing the boys' shoes, and had them supplied with cotton shoestrings. He also had the boys' clothes better attended to; the general appearance of the boys was cleaner and more tidy, and they were made in many respects more comfortable.

He proceeded to another work which had long been desirable, the digging up and levelling of the "Bounds," which had been worn into deep gutters by the rains, and rendered unsightly and uncomfortable. Next, the chapel was much altered, a gallery for the choir and strangers was erected over the old tribune, which was made level with the floor of the chapel, and appropriated to the servants. The old altar was removed, and a sarcophagus altar substituted: but some years after the old venerable antependium was replaced, and the altar resumed its form of an oblong square. The sacristy was enlarged, by taking in part of the granary, and made light and convenient by

opening a window towards the East. The altar piece was to be removed, and a circular window of stained glass opened in the recess which it had occupied. Mr. Bowdon was warned when he first proposed this window, that it would let in a blaze of light which would have a bad effect, and prevent every thing from being well seen in the sanctuary. He contended, however, that if the glass were of the deep colours which he contemplated, this would not happen; but it has proved to be the case, and the former arrangement of a picture behind the altar was far preferable. He did not live to see it, as the window was not put in till the year after his death. The sanctuary was somewhat enlarged by bringing out the rails, which were made new, and set in a curve instead of their former shape. The old chapel benches were removed, and two rows of benches introduced instead of three, with a single passage up the middle. The walls were painted of a faint blue, and the old plaster pictures frame painted to resemble oak. Two handsome lamps replaced the old chandeliers.

Mr. Bowdon then made a good sized pond at the Farm for skating and sliding, to be ready for the approaching Winter. In September, he was very unwell; his chest and stomach were much affected. In November, he had a troublesome cold and cough, and at the end of the January following, he had a violent attack of pleurisy, to which he was subject, and which had so nearly brought him to the grave eleven years before. In the Autumn of 1836, the faithful old servant, "Francis the Cobbler" (Cheadle) died, after a long and wasting illness, which had confined him to his house in the Lane, where his death took place. Before the Midsummer holidays in 1836, there were only 100 boys, but after it, 114. Mr. Lockley and Mr. Allan came to be masters in 1836, who had both been boys in the "Bounds," some time before. At the close of 1836, the housekeeper, Mrs. Cheadle, sister of poor Francis, left that charge, which she found too much for her strength, and became the nurse in the Infirmary. She was followed by a new housekeeper, Mrs. Hawkins. In the beginning of 1837, the number of boys was 113.

Mr. Bowdon vigorously carried on his improvements and alterations. The old "Platts" wall was taken down, and replaced by a low wall surmounted with iron rails painted of a light green colour, and the entrance made in the North corner, from the "Bounds Piece." The old "Study" at the end of the playroom had been converted into a gig-house. Mr. Bowdon now made it into a washing place for the boys, who were no longer obliged to wash in all weathers in the open pump-house. In February, the playroom was newly paved, the old porch and the chapel stairs were removed,

the walls were newly wainscoted, and for the first time papered, and the playroom boxes made all new. The work in the playroom alone cost £50. Then the Refectory was painted and repaired, and new benches made for it. By this time, these various works had cost £200. In the Summer, the "High House" was thoroughly repaired and done up. The roof was made sound, and the ornamental vases on the top of the parapet, always known as the "Duff Pots," were restored in their pristine glory. New sashes were put in all the windows, and the outside entirely cleaned and painted. The "High Dormitory" was newly floored, and new curtains made for the boys' beds. The master's room was removed to the North East angle, and made light and airy. The old winding staircase was closed up, and a new short staircase made, which began in the North Dormitory, passed over the White Room, and entered the High Dormitory through the East wall, by the side of the master's new room.

Next, the president's room was exceedingly improved by opening the third window towards the West. The long room, where the presidents used to sleep, was made into two comfortable bedrooms, one for the president, and the other for visitors. The "Big Staircase" was made entirely new of oak, and the hall was paved with diamond shaped tiles, black and white. The master's parlour was lessened by

a passage made through it to the Studies and Chapel, and a new fire-place was contrived in the remaining part, which was made the storeroom. The old storeroom on the opposite side, then became the master's room; and by opening the second window in it, and furnishing it anew, it was rendered a very cheerful and pleasant parlour. The Infirmary had always been only one room; but now a bed-room for the nurse was made at the end of it, communicating with it by a door on the left hand of the fire-place. The whole of these improvements and alterations were done at Mr. Bowdon's own expense, and cost him several hundred pounds. This, however, he cheerfully devoted to the "dear old Park," as he loved to call it, to which he felt so great an attachment, and to the prosperity of which he steadily devoted all his attention during the short remainder of his life.

From the month of March, 1836, when Mr. Bowdon assumed the presidentship, till the month of July following, he had been obliged to carry on both the offices of president and spiritual director. In July, however, the Rev. Henry Smith arrived to take the place of chaplain, much to the relief of Mr. Bowdon. The worthy president had frequent attacks of illness. In the beginning of 1838, he was confined to his room for nearly a fortnight with a severe influenza. He spoke feelingly of the probability of his dying soon; but always

expressed the most devout submission to the holy will of God. On Passion Sunday, Dr. Walsh gave Confirmation in the Park Chapel, when 44 of the boys were confirmed, a greater number than had been on former occasions. There were at this time in the school nearly 120 boys; and in October following, 123. In July or August of this year, Mr. Craven left the Park, where he had been employed in teaching the classics for sixteen years; and Mr. Lockley succeeded him. Mr. Maurice O'Connor took Mr. Lockley's "Study:" he had been a boy at the Park about eight years before. Only two years afterwards, Mr. O'Connor died at the Park, on the 17th of April, 1840. In October of this year, 1838, Mr. Bowdon built the Lodge at the top of the Lane, which formed a respectable entrance, and was a great protection against depredations and breaking down the fences. The pig-styes were removed from the Rookery, and the ground was dug up and levelled, and planted with fruit trees. An iron gate replaced the old wooden door opposite the "Yew Bower" in the "Big Garden," which led into the Rookery. In this month, Mr. Knowles went away, and Mr. Vinn succeeded to his office of Procurator.

A very melancholy event occurred at the close of the year 1839. Mr. George Spicer had been for some time a kind of house steward at Sedgley Park, was greatly attached to it, and

exceedingly attentive to the various duties of his office. On the 10th of December he went down to Wolverhampton, and ran a good part of the way. He was suddenly taken ill in the shop of a respectable tradesman, Mr. Sollom, with whom he was constantly in the habit of dealing, and died instantaneously. His death was awfully sudden, and before any assistance, spiritual or professional, could be procured for him. Mr. Bowdon was in the town at the time, and not far from Mr. Sollom's shop; the Bishop was still nearer, but neither could have arrived in time. The Park sustained a great loss by his death; many tears were shed for him, and many Masses offered for the repose of his soul.

At this time a wide approach to the Chapel was obtained by taking down the boarded partitions of the three Studies on the "Bounds" side, and leaving a wide open space, or lobby, leading to the Chapel. Another of the masters, named Allan, left in March of the year following, that is 1839. In this year, the pension was raised to £28. In September there were 131 boys, and in December following, the number was 135. In this year, the cobblers' shop was removed to the other side, where the tailors' shop had always been; and the tailors' snop was established over the master tailor's room. A passage was then made through the old cobblers' shop into the playroom; so

that the boys could go to the "cobbler's" and "tailor's" without going out of doors. In October of the following year, 1840, the number of boys had declined to 105. The boys' gardens at the end of the "Bounds" had been for some time trodden down, and done away with. Mr. Bowdon determined to have them dug up and restored. This was done in the following Spring; they were filled with flowers, and the boys took great delight in them. The President severely forbade any injury to them, and the old practice of breaking them up in the Winter.

In the year 1839, on the 6th of January, was founded the Society of "Associated Parkers," composed exclusively of those who have either been educated, or filled any office at the Park, and having for its object the cultivation of mutual good fellowship among its members, as well as their relief in case of distress, not caused by misconduct. This Society holds its Annual Meeting and Dinner at the Park in September, and has continued to prosper and prove beneficial from its first foundation.

The following Song, to the spirited and favourite music of the German Song "Am Rhein, am Rhein," was written by the author of this History for the first Meeting of the "Associated Parkers."

#### THE PARKERS' MEETING.



For thee our hearts in youth's enchantment leaping, First glowed, O hallowed spot!

For thee their love with firm devotion keeping, They still forget thee not.

Though years have rolled, and time and care have worn us, Unquenched is still that spark;

Thy memory lives, though absence long hath torn us From thee, sweet Sedgley Park!

We tread again, in thought's delusive dreaming, The steps of roseate youth;

We feel delights, to fancy's ardour seeming Still those of lasting truth.

Rejoice! rejoice! O Parkers, loudly greeting, This day to gladness give;

Devoted sons, on this our glorious meeting, Bid Sedgley Park long live! In the year, 1840, on the 18th of May, Mr. Vinn, one of the masters, married Miss Ann Bowdon, the youngest niece of the worthy President, and left the Park to reside in Belgium.

Towards the end of the year 1841, Dr. Walsh removed from Giffard House, the old episcopal residence at Wolverhampton, and went to reside at St. Chad's, Birmingham. There were at this time a few more than 100 boys, and several applications for new comers. At the close of the year, Mr. Bowdon was attacked very seriously with his old complaint in the chest, of which he ob served to the writer, that from his 20th year, he had almost every year been attacked with it either in Winter or Spring, his worst attacks having been in the years 1816, 1825, 1836, and 1837. This time he was so ill as to be unable to say Mass till the 13th of February; and it was not till March that he was strong enough to take his usual walk to Wolverhampton. He said on this occasion, that this complaint in his chest would probably kill him some time or other; but that this illness had weaned him still more from this world, and that he should not at all regret leaving it. And in a letter to the writer in the following April, 1842, he thus feelingly expressed himself: "How fast time flies! I shall soon be gone; God grant me a happy passage! At one time I thought I should have gone in the Winter. I have lost almost all regard for this world, and feel anxious to

see the next, where I have many friends who, I have great reason to hope, are in heaven."

In September, 1842, the number of boys was about 100, and at the end of the year, 105; and Mr. Bowdon considered that, from the depressed state of trade, and the establishment of so many other schools, a greater number could not be expected. A proof of Mr. Bowdon's devotion to our Blessed Lady deserves to be here recorded. On Christmas Eve, he experienced on a sudden a great depression of spirits, and a low nervous despondency, which, he said, if he had not had the support of Religion, would have probably led him to attempt his own life. This terrible trial lasted till the Epiphany, when it left him during Mass, as he declared through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin; and he devoutly added that it was not the first time that he had experienced her powerful aid.

In the following year, 1843, Mr. Vinn suffered a severe affliction in the loss of his wife, and returned in the latter part of it to Sedgley Park, where he volunteered to teach French, and where he has ever since remained. In October, the number of boys was 103. In November, the housekeeper, Mrs. Hawkins, left the Park, and was succeeded by Mrs. Bird, who had been housekeeper to Dr. Walsh at Wolverhampton. At the end of this year, or in January, 1844, Dr. Walsh left Birmingham, and took up his

residence at the house adjoining the new Church of St. Barnabas, at Nottingham; but he came to Sedgley Park occasionally, and used to stay a few days when he came. In this year, Mr. Bowdon had the entrance hall papered, as also the lobby leading to the Chapel. Indeed his delight was to study every means of improving the Park, both in its essential character as a scholastic establishment, and in all its arrangements for utility, comfort, and ornament, interior and exterior.

In this year, Mr. Bowdon received the well merited distinction of Doctor of Divinity, conferred upon him by special diploma from the Holy See. Dr. Wiseman, then coadjutor to Dr. Walsh, came over to Sedgley Park to instal him as DD., on the 20th of June. On the morning of that day, however, a melancholy event had occurred in the house, which threw a gloom over the ceremony, and looked significant of a result too soon to follow. The Rev. Robert Richmond died that morning at Sedgley Park; and from his being an intimate friend of Dr. Bowdon's, his death affected him very seriously. Not only was it most trying to him to go through the ceremony of being installed and invested with the Doctor's cap and ring; but he felt for a time so overpowered by this sad and sudden event, that he began to fear that he should never recover from it. His health indeed was already much impaired, and the short remainder of his days was little else than a course of suffering. Of this, however, he made a pious and truly Christian use. He was fully sensible of his approaching death, and his recent honours were but as a funeral wreath on his devoted brow. His sentiments in letters to the present writer, with whom he was always very open and friendly, cannot fail to interest and edify. He wrote May 4, 1843: "My time now cannot be very far off, and this has produced a great difference in my feelings, and I hope some in my mode of living; my mind is much more frequently turned towards death, than it used to be. God grant that I may make a good use of the short time remaining." In October of the same year :- "I must not expect to get young again: my breath is getting bad, and I never feel quite well for three days together: fiat voluntas Dei!" And in December, he wrote thus:-"I have been so ill that I really thought for one day that I should have died. I am now, thank God, much better, but far from well; I cannot take my usual exercise, I am so weak and short breathed. I now keep strict enclosure, but I like this way of living much better than the other. I have much more time, and have an opportunity of thinking more about my spiritual concerns. I find my present life quite delightful." Under date of April 29, in the year following, the last of his life, he wrote to the same friend thus:-

"This was the day (Third Sunday after Easter) on which you used to do the duty here at Ten o'clock; but those happy days are gone, never to return! My health is broken, and I am always, more or less, in pain. I must do what I can as long as I live; for the night is coming to me in which no man can work. My feelings and ideas seem all changed. I have no wish to go out, except a little into the garden; though I have been twice to Wolverhampton lately. It hurt my chest, but gave me a famous appetite. My thoughts are now constantly turned towards death, and a future state. It excites in my mind a pleasing melancholy, than which nothing is more soothing and delightful." One more extract, as he drew nearer to the end of his mortal course. The date is July 30, and it is remarkable that in this first letter after his newly received Doctor's degree, he makes no allusion to that honour. In fact, it never occupied his thoughts; they were fixed on the one great and awful prospect before him:-" I am now got old and nervous: sixty-six years (if I live till August 2) have I been on the face of this globe. I cannot expect to remain here much longer: the infirmities of age creep fast upon me, and admonish me to prepare for that day on which I must appear before the Judge of all. Almighty God is, I perceive, preparing me for it; may it be such a preparation as may make me fit to meet my great Judge!"

Dr. Bowdon had the consolation to know that the establishment over which he presided had flourished under his administration. In the month of September, they had more than 100 boys, were not one farthing in debt, and had £1,600 in hand to meet any emergency. He had fulfilled his former charge of spiritual director with great prudence and piety, and with the most beneficial results to those who had the happiness to be under his care. And since he had been appointed president, he had devoted all his energies to the improvement and success of the establishment, and expended upon it no inconsiderable sum out of his own fortune. The time was now come for the good servant to receive the reward of his labours.

On the 4th of December, 1844, about six in the morning, Dr. Bowdon rang his bell, and was found labouring under violent oppression of the chest, and shortness of breath. He had time, however, to make his Confession, and receive the last Sacraments, and in about two hours he calmly expired, doubtless from disease of the heart. He had long complained of a strange feeling about the region of the heart, and once observed to the present writer that he knew that something was wrong there, which would probably make an end of him before long. He was 66 years old on the 2nd of August preceding, and it is remarkable that both Mr. Southworth and Mr. Harbut had died

at the same age. In his will, he left the interest of £4,000 for the education of students intended for the ecclesiastical state, allowing £25 a year for each, as far as the completion of his 14th year. Also £1,000 to the Mission at Radford, and £50 for Masses for his soul. His funeral took place at the Catholic Church at Sedgley, for the repairs and embellishment of which he had recently given £100, and to which a legacy to the same amount was left by Mr. Sumner entirely at Dr. Bowdon's suggestion. The funeral was exceedingly solemn, and honoured by the attendance of thirty priests; several of his relations, nearly all the masters and servants from the Park, and a great concourse of respectable persons. The Sermon was delivered by the writer of these lines, from a text, suggested by the sudden summons of his departure: "Spare me, O Lord, for my days are nothing. What is a man that thou shouldst magnify him? or, why dost thou set thy heart upon him? Thou visitest him early in the morning, and thou provest him suddenly."—Job vii., 16, 17, 18. After the funeral, a dole of 160 loaves was given to the poor at Sedgley, and of 60 to the poor around Sedgley Park.

Dr. Bowdon had spent forty-one years of his life at Sedgley Park. He had resided there, indeed, rather longer than the venerable Mr. Southworth. He was the greatest benefactor whom the Park had ever possessed. For

besides expending several hundred pounds upon it during his presidentship he had paid for a number of boys every year at the school all through his course, except for a short time, when having lost his property it was not in his power to pay for any students; but the moment he became again possessed of a fortune, he not only resumed, but increased his former meritorious charities; and he always gave each year a handsome sum to the District Funds. The preceding extracts from his letters will have given the reader a better insight into the peculiar cast of his mind than any description could convey. He used to say that he was naturally of a cross and peevish temper; but if this were so, he had most meritoriously subdued nature, by the aid of grace. For he was always, on the contrary, remarkable for placidity and evenness of temper, so as to appear almost passionless. His mind was of a happy and cheerful turn; he was content with simple pleasures, and quiet and innocent in all his pursuits. was particularly fond of children, which fitted him admirably for his offices at Sedgley Park. There was no ardour or impetuosity about him; he was habitually slow in his movements, and cautious in his resolves. Indeed there was a degree of coldness and reserve about him towards those whom he did not well know, which rendered it difficult for many to understand his real character, and estimate his worth.

But to those, with whom he was familiar, no man could have appeared more amiable, more kind or generous, or more worthy of their affection. The writer had known him intimately for six and thirty years, and for the last fourteen of Dr. Bowdon's life, had been his constant correspondent, and only one besides his sister. He had frequently visited him, and enjoyed his affectionate friendship, and unreserved confidence. He hopes, therefore, to be pardoned if he has here availed himself of the only opportunity he may ever have, of paying a deserved tribute to his cherished memory. In some of the foregoing details he may have dwelt on trifles; but "trifles," says Scott, "assume an importance not their own, when connected with those who have been loved and lost."

# CHAPTER TWENTY-FIRST.

RECENT PRESIDENTS OF SEDGLEY PARK—GLOSSARY OF PARK WORDS—DIPLOMA OF PARKERSHIP—CONCLUSION.

"But some are dead, and some are gone, And some are scattered and alone,

And some are in a far countree, And some all restlessly at home; But never more, Oh! never,—we Shall meet to revel or to roam."

Byron.

In the preceding pages, the History of Sedgley Park School has been traced from its commencement, through the long period of eighty-one years, under the government of six Bishops in succession, and the administration of six Presidents. Small and unpretending in its beginning,—even as the grain of mustard seed in the parable,—it grew and extended its branches, and flourished; and it has afforded a goodly shade, and an enviable protection to many hundreds, nay thousands of grateful children. Its Presidents after this period are all living. To pursue the History farther cannot be requisite, and might be invidious. More

recent events, it will be far better to leave for some future historian to chronicle:

"And let the picture distant stand, The softened hues of age to borrow."

It will suffice to conclude these pages with a simple record of the succession of Presidents and Chaplains to the present time.

Shortly after the death of Dr. Bowdon, the Rev. Henry Smith was appointed the seventh President, by Bishop Walsh, on the 10th of January, 1845. The Rev. James Brown, from St. Mary's College, Oscott, became Chaplain and Vice-President, and arrived at the Park to assume his office, January 14.

On January 5, 1848, the Rev. Henry Smith retired to the Trappist Monastery at Mount St. Bernard, in Leicestershire, and the Rev. James Brown, succeeded him, and was the eighth President. The Rev. Richard Phelan, from Oscott, came as Chaplain and Vice-President, about the 17th of the same month. At this time, there were 140 boys at the school. In 1851, Mr. Phelan was obliged to resign his duties from ill health, and survived only till the 18th of November; and the Rev. Thomas Flanagan succeeded to his office.

On the 27th of July, 1851, Rev. James Brown was consecrated Bishop of Shrewsbury, and left Sedgley Park on the 23rd of August. Mr. Flanagan was then appointed, by Bishop Ullathorne, the ninth President, and the Rev. James Moore from Oscott, Chaplain and Vice-President.

In July, 1853, the Very Rev. Canon Flanagan resigned the presidentship, and returned to Oscott, as Prefect of Studies. The Very Rev. GEO. ROLFE, Canon of Westminster, was then called to be the tenth President of Sedgley Park, under whose administration the Park continues, and long may it continue, to train up edifying priests and virtuous laymen. At this time it is full and flourishing, with 142 boys in the school. Of the laity it has brought up a number beyond computation, approaching as it does now to the centenary of its existence. It has, moreover, been the parent of six Bishops, the Right Rev. Drs. Milner, Thomas Smith, Briggs, Wareing, Baggs, and James Brown; besides a great number of priests, and among them many eminent for learning, zeal, and piety, and distinguished by high honours and titles in the Church.

Every school has its own *Slang*, or conventional language, and The History of Sedgley Park would not be complete without a Glossary of the peculiar terms and expressions of that school; but those only will be given which are of old-established usage and remote introduction.

### GLOSSARY OF PARK WORDS.

AWD MON, s .- Old man.

Bacon, s.—A word used at Long-rope, calling for the rope to be turned very fast.

Backs, s.—A game like leap-frog, but the boy went over the back lengthways, and not over the shoulders.

Bank, s.—The space between the rails and the hedge behind the boys' gardens.

BARGULLIES, s.—Young unfledged birds.

Barley Ghost, s.—A ghost was so called from an unlucky mistake made by a boy in saying the first answer of the Angelus.

BEEF, s.—A call at *Long-rope*, for the rope to be turned slowly.

Bells, s.—A call at *Long-rope*, for the rope to be swung from side to side, instead of being turned round.

Belly-Band, s .- The string in the middle of a kite.

Bender, s.—The brier or hoop which formed the upper part of a kite.

Bounce, v.—To make a ball rebound by throwing it down hard; used chiefly in games at the ball-place.

Bread and Cheese, s.—The leaves of the hawthorn hedge, round the "Bounds."

Broth, s.—The melted tallow round the wick of a candle when snuffed short.

Bull-Beef, s.—A game played with stakes struck into wet clay.

Bull-roar, s.—A flat piece of wood, notched on both sides, and whirled round rapidly with a string, which made a loud roaring noise.

Cabbage, v.—To appropriate the composition of another. Cabbage, s.—A call at *Long-rope*, for the rope to be turned rather faster.

Candle, s.—A long mark made by a nailed shoe in sliding, which cut into the ice.

CHOTTIES or TEOTTIES, s .- Potatoes.

Clag, s.—Mud, with which the sides of the garden beds were plastered up with a trowel or a beef bone.

COBNOBBLE, s.—A severe punishment inflicted by the boys themselves upon a boy who had offended by some bad conduct. It consisted of fastening his hands behind him to a table, which he was made to draw after him the whole length of the playroom, the boys all the while belabouring him with their handkerchiefs twisted into scourges.

Codey, s.—The thumb of a glove stuffed hard with wool, and fastened to a string, to be used against another boy provided with a similar contrivance, so that they flogged each other with these codgies on the back, to see which could hold out the longer under the infliction. A softer codgy was made square of platted list.

Cog, v.-To coax.

College, v.—To send a ball high up in the air, or to a distance, with a bat or a cat-stick.

Compue, adj.—Snug, comfortable, nice, smooth, pleasant. Cork, s.—New bread.

Crack, s.—That crust of a loaf between the upper and lower crusts, which has a *cracked* and rough surface.

CROCK-IN-DE-CONDOILE, s.—A candle cracker of glass, so called from an Italian coming to sell such things, and thus describing their effect.

Crop, s.—A nosegay.

CRUIZE, v.—To slip into the kitchen passage to get bread out of the bread-room.

CUDDLE, s.—A favourite.

Dash, v.—To flourish letters or forms with a pen, such as an eagle, a swan, or a pen.

DEAD O, s.—A term at peg top. To lay a dead O, was to lay down a top, not spinning, for others to peg at.

DEAD-MAN'S-BONES, s.—The plant wormwood.

Duff-pors, s.—The vases on the top of the "High House."

Duffy, adj.—A term of contempt for any thing.

DUFFY-HOLE, s.—A nickname for the school itself, used by discontented boys.

FAT, s.—A term for getting within the ring at marbles.

A knife borrowed was requested to be sent back Fat, loaded with something good.

FAT-FINGERS, 8.—Chilblains on the hands.

Fellows, s.—The common word for the boys.

FISHING, s.—A feruling.

FLAT, s.—That part of the loaf which was smooth, from the bread being baked in a tin.

FOOT-AND-A-HALF, and FOOT-AND-A-HORSE-SHOE, s.—Games at backs.

Fox, s.—A sore made on the hand by rubbing the skin off. A trick played by some barbarous boys, who would ask a little boy if he would like to have a Fox, and when he of course answered: "Yes," they proceeded to rub the skin off the upper part of his hand or finger, which they called giving him a Fox; but how the term originated is lost in obscurity.

Gallowses, s .- Braces.

Gobble-Hole, s.—A game at marbles.

Goosegogs, s.—Gooseberries.

GRAY, s .- A gray or brown linnet.

GREEN, s .- The favourite Park bird, a green linnet.

GROUT, s.—A dinner in the "Big Parlour."

GRUBS, s.—All the cards that were not court cards, or, in Park phrase, "picture cards."

GUTTER-DE-sowo.—From a boy saying this at Vespers, instead of *qutture suo*.

GYPSCRAB, s.—A name of no particular meaning applied by the boys to one another, and they generally said: "Hearty gypscrab."

Heap, s.—A game similar to trap-and-ball, but played with a heap of sand instead of a trap.

Hedgy, s.—A hedge-sparrow.

Hodgy, s .- A hog's pudding.

Horseballs, s.—A composition of sugar, called Nelson's Balls, but soon corrupted by the boys into *Horseballs*.

In, s.—The portion of time spent in the Study.

In, interj.—A word used for calling the boys into the Study or Refectory.

JENNY-BRICK, s.—A loose brick in the ball-place.

JERRY-MORTAR, s.—A bricklayer, or his labourer. The word arose from a bricklayer calling to his server: "Jerry! Mortar!"

Lace, v.—To beat or chastise. It afterwards came to mean to eat, as also to enjoy anything highly.

LIVE O, s.—A top set spinning for others to peg at, which was called laying a Live O.

Longbirch-Waggon-Horse, s.—A louse.

Long-rope, s.—A game of skipping, played with a long rope turned by two boys, while others, one at a time, ran in and skipped in it, and got clear out without touching the rope.

Lumps, s.—Bits of flour in the boys' porridge.

Marlo, s.—A marble.

MARLYGRUBS, s.—The belly-ache.

Modgle, s.—A magpie.

NAIL, v.—To send a ball at a boy's hand held up against the wall; or to send a ball at a boy in any other position.

OLD MAN, s.—The herb southernwood.

PARCHMENT, s.—A book to enter sums in cyphering, or used as a commonplace book, was thus called, on account of such books having been originally bound in parchment.

PARKER, s.—A boy who had studied at Sedgley Park; but strictly speaking, a boy was not entitled to be called so, unless he had been at the Park five years.

Peckanall, s.—A cobbler's hammer.

Pigeons, s.—A word applied to the leather of a master's ferule, appearing above the boarded partitions of the "Studies."

PIKE, s.-A long nose.

PITCHING, s.—Going over a back with a spring from a distance.

PLUG, s.-A playday.

Plugroom, s.—The playroom.

PLUGBOX, s.—One of the fixed cupboards in the playroom.

PLUM-DUFF, s .- A roll pudding made with currants.

Polony, s.—A kick of a foot-ball sending it up in the air.

Porco, s.—A pork pie.

Pudding, s.—The pad worn in a cravat.

RAP-AT-THE-COBBLER'S-DOOR, s.—This was done while sliding, by stamping on the slide with one foot. If the boy fell down in the attempt, it was said that the cobbler had let him in.

RAZZOR, s.—A thin portion of bread, said to be as thin as a razor.

Refectory Bull-dog, s.—Those boys were so called who crowded about the door of the Refectory, that they might get in first, when it was opened, and secure the best cans and spoons, or knives and forks.

ROAST-BEEF, s.—A pen burnt in the candle.

ROASTER, s.—A bird for roasting. A green linnet, as this bird was most frequently roasted by the boys at the playroom fire.

Rub, s.—When a boy wanted to borrow a piece of soap of another, he would say: "Give me a rub."

Sally, v.—A bird was said to Sally, when it held to the wires of its cage, and moved its head downwards, or backwards and forwards. The word was borrowed from the name of a poor old woman whose head shook, and who was called Sally Palsy.

Sanctebob, s.—A word of derision for a hypocrite; one who pretended to devotion. Originally it had been applied in a good sense, and out of real respect to Mr. Robert Richmond, when a boy, whom they called Sancte (Holy) Bob, on account of his remarkable goodness and piety.

Scrowge, v.—To push in a crowd, particularly before the fire.

SETTER, s.—That part of a birdtrap on which the bird hops when he is caught.

SHAM, v.—To be proud, vain, or consequential.

SHAMMER, s.—One who was proud, vain or conse quential.

SHANKER, s .-- A kick on the shanks.

SKIMMER, s .-- A hat with a broad brim.

SLIP, v.—To go any where without leave; as to Slip "out of Bounds."

SLITHERS, s.—Long slices of bread and butter, cut the whole length of the long Park loaves, baked in tins.

Smell, s.—A pretender, boaster, or formal conceited fellow.

SMILER, s.—Boiled beef.

SNAP, s.—The round-leaved Antirrhinum, or Snap-dragon, formerly cultivated regularly in the boys' gardens, and seldom met with any where else.

Sock, s.—Any pleasant thing, good fortune, or happy event, was called a "good sock."

Sock, v.—To eat anything.

Socker, s.—One who ate anything, as a "Lump-Socker."

Socks, s.—The old name for cakes, gingerbread, custards, fruit, and all sweet things sold to the boys on Tuesday afternoons. No Park word was longer established than this; and all old Parkers will learn with regret that it is now quite gone out of use, and by the present generation of Park boys not even understood.

Souse, s.-Sorrel.

Spangwhew, v.—To send a poor toad up into the air by striking one end of a stick across a rail, the toad being placed on the opposite end.

Sprio, s.—A sparrow.

Squeezecrab, s.—A nickname for a stingy boy.

SQUINNY, a .- Small, little.

STAGER, s.—A boy who had been at the Park seven years.

STANDARD, s.—The stick in the middle of a kite.

Tan, v.—To flog a boy with the hands, when he first came out as a haymaker.

TAWD Mon, s.-Old man, the same as Awd mon.

TENEBERRIES, s.—An absurd story told to new comers, that at *Tenebræ*, old John Moore would come round and give each boy ten berries.

TIPPER, s.—A stroke with the ferule, which fell only on the tips of the fingers.

TOAD, v.—To ill use, beat, or play tricks with any one.

Up, s.—The line along the ball-place, above which the ball must hit the wall to be Up.

WATCH, v.—To have care of the boys as a master in playtime and in the Refectory.

WINTER-CART, s .- A board to slide with over the snow.

WITCH, s.-A smooth black stone.

YOPPY, a.—Happy. An old man used to come singing Christmas carols, and the burden of one was: "Yoppy is the mon, that ne'er hath sworn;" which was quite enough to procure him the name of the "Yoppy Mon." Another of his ditties began thus:

"And mustle (must) I die, and leave this world,
Which I've delighted in,
And with but one poor winding sheet,
To wrap my bodye in!"

Such was, and such is, the venerable School at Sedgley Park. Few indeed who have received their education there, have left it without retaining a strong affection for the "Old Place." Many who are not Parkers have regretted their not having enjoyed that privilege.

One worthy and beloved personage, now living, had so often regretted his not being a Parker, that one day some of his old friends being assembled with him at the Park, which he visited oftener than many Parkers, formally engrossed on parchment, and presented to him the following Diploma, to constitute him at least an honorary Parker. He was highly amused at the joke, and used afterwards to bring with him his Diploma, and gravely present it to the President, as his title to admission among us.

### DIPLOMA.

"Quandoquidem amicus noster — — sæpius se lamentatum esse fateatur non fuisse Parkerum, et dictus - - sub omni respectu nobis videatur dignus cui conferatur honos iste maxime appetendus et desiderabilis,-Nos infrascripti apud Sedgley Park debite et unanimiter congregati, per præsentes dictum - - non obstantibus quibuscumque regulis, constitutionibus, consuetudinibusve, PARKERUM facimus ex hoc nunc et constituimus in perpetuum; conditionibus tamen sequentibus debite ab illo servandis, nempe ut portet per unam saltem hebdomadam perizomata curta coriacea, et per quindecim dies ad minus jentaculum suum faciat ex jusculo avenæ. rite peractis omnia jura et privilegia habeat et possideat, et omni honore ad PARKERUM pertinente omnimodo gaudeat et perfruatur.

Datum apud Sedgley Park die quintodecimo Aprilis, A.D., 1834.

L. S. G. F. Syndicus.
E. H. Cancellarius.
F. C. H. Professor.

Visum et approbatum a me, GUALTERO BLOUNT, Præside. Others have been heard to boast that they were very near being sent to school at Sedgley Park, deriving a certain pleasure even from such proximity. But it has struck many, and been constantly observed, with how great affection and enthusiasm old Parkers always dwell upon their days at that happy abode of peace and innocence. The writer of these pages has ever had this feeling in its full intensity; and if after speaking of so many other Parkers, he may be indulged in a brief expression of his own feelings, and close this History of a place so dear to his heart, in a few lines with which he long ago concluded an unpublished poem, which records many old Park adventures.

> Years now have rolled, and scenes have passed Full many since those days; But Memory holds their image fast, And loves to hymn their praise.

Still fondly turns our restless eye
From each more recent scene,
Back to youth's pure wild ecstacy,
Back to what we have been.

And till our latest hour is come, And life's spent lamp is dark, Our heart will seek its only home On earth,—the dear old PARK.

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